

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

**BOARD MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 1, 1990**

**WARREN POL**

**CHAIRMAN**

**LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA**

**AGENDA**  
**LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION**  
**LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA**  
**FEBRUARY 1, 1990**

	Page
1) Roll Call	1
2) Report on 1989-90 Waterfowl Season-Game Division	1
3) Approval of Minutes of January 5-6 1990	4
4) Report on Responsive Management Survey	4
5) Senator Jack Doland Addresses Commission	
5	
6) Discussion on Spotted Seatrout Quota and Resolution	6
7) Discussion on Black Drum Quota, Resolution and Emergency Declaration	11
8) Shikar Safari Club International Presentation to Outstanding Wildlife Officer	22
9) Presentation to Secretary Van Sickle from Operation Game Thief	22
10) Monthly Law Enforcement Report	22
11) Law Enforcement Migratory Waterfowl Report 1989-90	22
12) Annual Report on Large Offshore Patrol Boats	23
13) Representative Randy Roach Addresses Commission	26
14) Secretary's Report to the Commission	26
15) Update on Alligator Program/Hiring Extra Personnel	27
16) Oyster Fishing, Calcasieu Lake	28
17) Deer Hunting/Kisatchie National Forest	28

managed water areas until mid-December as there was near record drought conversely to that in the central, northwest and northern parts of the state. However, in the coastal zone waterfowl habitat was restricted to the managed areas and sheet waters in the rice belt of southwest Louisiana was abundant by mid-December and by early January in the central and northeast part of the state. Because of the record cold spell in December there was severe freezing of many wetlands in the northern sections of the state from December 15-17, 1989, and then a record freeze throughout the state from December 22-26, 1989. This year's December was the coldest on record for the state with the average temperature being ten degrees below normal. Significant changes in the waterfowl distribution in the state resulted from this freeze with birds moving down to the coast and large number of birds moving into the state from northern areas. In terms of waterfowl population estimates recorded on all of the coastal zones surveys were all above normal and the highest since 1980. The dry habitat conditions in the central and north part of the states early in the season and the late December freeze both in Louisiana and throughout the other states in the lower Mississippi River Valley favored an early and very increased migration into the state stated Mr. Bateman.

Hunting success along the coast, especially in the West zone, was much improved this winter with a maximum bag of three ducks common throughout both splits of the season. Gadwall, Greenwing Teal and Mallard were most common in the bag and harvest information from the past two seasons were collected from several private, commercial and federal areas across the state. This year the combined duck harvest for the areas that were checked was about eight thousand birds. Last year it was seventeen percent less than this year stated Mr. Bateman. Although hunter efforts continued to decline this year but because of the increase number of birds that were available the department believes that there will be a moderate increase in the overall harvest of ducks on the Louisiana coast this year. Success rates from all areas that were checked on the coast were excellent with an average bag being 2.5 ducks. The East zone encompasses most of north Louisiana, Catahoula Lake and the southeastern coastal marshes. There was a notable lack of an adequate rain in north and central Louisiana causing waterfowl habitat available to birds early in the year being very restricted. Mr. Bateman pointed that a trend was noted last year and continued this year that because of the drought the only water available to a lot of migrating birds that came into Louisiana were on those areas that were actively managed by sportsmen who were interested in putting water on their property for hunting and recreational purposes.

Waterfowl bag checks on eleven of the wildlife management areas in the East zone and on Catahoula showed very good hunting success. The total efforts were 1,016 and the total ducks bagged were 1,760 which is an average success rate of 1.7 ducks. The

MINUTES OF MEETING

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

FEBRUARY 1-2, 1990

Chairman Warren Pol presiding:

Thursday, February 1, 1990

Dr. Don Hines  
Mr. James Jenkins  
Mr. Bert Jones  
Mr. Norman McCall

Secretary Van Sickle was also present.

Chairman Pol welcomed Mr. Jesse Knowles, a former member of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Senator Jack Doland to the Commission meeting.

At Thursday's meeting Mr. Hugh Bateman gave a report on the 1989-90 Waterfowl Season. Mr. Bateman reported that copies of the updated report on the waterfowl season were given to the Commissioners and proceeded to summarize the report. There was a split waterfowl season and for the second time since the early 1970's hunters hunted under the conventional bag limit as the point system was eliminated two years ago by federal regulations. There was also a statewide split for goose hunting which is still continuing in the West zone. For the first time since 1951 the daily bag limit for snow geese in Louisiana was increased from five to seven birds and there was an additional nine days of snow goose only hunting. This reflects the fact that snow goose populations are doing very well at the present time and some additional opportunities for hunting recreation was provided in the federal regulations for this year, stated Mr. Bateman. This is expected to continue for next year. This year there were nine additional parishes in the state that were converted to the use of steel shot and this represents about ninety-five percent of the total waterfowl harvest area in the state.

The spring and summer coastal precipitation in Louisiana was well above normal with greater than twelve inches above average recorded through the month of August. The waterfowl habitat conditions in the coastal zones were generally good with an abundant amount of food available and the water levels were also excellent up to November, stated Mr. Bateman. Outside the coastal zone waterfowl habitat was generally restricted primarily to

change their shooting habits in order to eliminate a lot of the cripple birds that eventually are being killed and was wondering if there has been a study done on this. Mr. Bateman pointed out that this was a good point and there has been some research in Louisiana. Those who looked at this detailed research were convinced before the steel shot regulation went into effect that there was going to be some trade off. A few extra birds would be crippled but had hoped, on balance, that more birds would be saved in the long run by eliminating lead poisoning. The secret to be successful with steel shot is letting the birds get in real close advised Mr. Bateman.

Chairman Pol announced that the full agenda for the Commission meeting was going to be acted on at Thursday's meeting, if possible, instead of two days which would have included Friday. The reason for this is that there is the public hearing to be held at 7:00 p.m. this Thursday evening and also there are some very important meetings to be attended in the morning. If all the items are taken up at the Thursday's meeting there will be no Commission meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Friday morning advised Chairman Pol. At this point in the meeting Chairman Pol introduced Representative Randy Roach who came into the meeting.

The minutes of the regular Commission meeting of January 11-12, 1990 were unanimously approved at Thursday's meeting with a motion by Mr. McCall and seconded by Mr. Jenkins.

At Thursday's meeting Mr. Wade Byrd reported on the Responsive Management Survey. Mr. Byrd advised the Commission that there was a packet of the results of the survey in each of their Commission file. The survey that was taken had two objectives. One, they were to look at public preferences for the agency as to what the department should be doing more of in the future and two, in relationship to this to look at alternative funding mechanisms; if the public wanted the agency to be doing more were they willing to pay for it and if they were willing to pay for it how. Mr. Byrd at this point summarized the results of the survey advising that the survey was conducted the last week of October and the first week of November and it took a two week period to conduct. 1,574 households were contacted in Louisiana and the results were reviewed by Dr. Vernon Wright, Statistician at LSU. A ninety-five percent confidence limit was received with a margin of error that ranges between 2.6 and 1.5 percent depending upon the distribution of any given response. There were two areas that some statistical weighing techniques on. One is based on the number of people in the household and the other was with the percentage of the black response and being able to contact them. The survey showed that eighty percent of Louisianans are served directly by Wildlife and Fisheries and fall into one of the five major constituency groups that have been identified as hunters, fishermen, commercial user of the resources, owner of a boat or an active nonconsumptive user including indirect nonconsumptive users which is an individual who like to read about wildlife, watch wildlife shows, etc. Thirty-

success rate varied from a high of 2.4 at Catahoula Lake and down to 2.2 at the Manchac Wildlife Management Area which were two of the better areas. It went down to less than one bird per hunting effort at the Boeuf Wildlife Management Area which is located in Caldwell parish.

Overall the department believes the waterfowl hunting success was improved in the coastal zone in 1989-90. Good habitat conditions and a severe winter were conducive to high waterfowl use of the state and the return to the traditional one-half hour before sunrise shooting hours influenced people to stay active in the sport commented Mr. Bateman. It is anticipated that overall there will be a modest increase in the harvest of birds in Louisiana and the number of duck stamps sold will be relatively comparable to that from last year concluded Mr. Bateman.

Chairman Pol called for any questions. Dr. Hines asked what the prospects were for a teal season next year. Mr. Bateman stated that they were not good. The state is going to ask for consideration for a season and hopefully if there is some improvement in Canada on the breeding grounds the chances for getting this season would be better. But right now with the conditions looking like they do in the Dakotas and Minnesota the possibility is not good. Mr. Jones asked with the increase in areas with steel shot being introduced can any difference on lead poison be seen. Mr. Bateman informed Mr. Jones that there were no statewide investigations being done in terms of looking at the amount of lead in the gizzard. On Catahoula Lake this year there was a peak population of birds of about 380,000 with half or better being mallards and pintails. The hunting success was very good with the number of people hunting being very low. This year there was one of the worst lead poisoning outbreaks on Catahoula Lake that Mr. Bateman has seen since he has been working with the department. Conservative estimates would be probably an excess of ten thousand birds, mostly mallards and pintails, died as a result of lead poisoning on Catahoula Lake. The department believes that the conversion to steel will eventually make a difference but it will take a while. Mr. Bateman is very hopeful that some of the research that the Game Division is cooperating in on Catahoula Lake with trying to till the lake bed and turn the soil under with a deep till plow will put the lead on the bottom so the ducks cannot get to it. Dr. Hines asked if the number of cases of lead poisoning had been documented. Mr. Bateman explained that this was strictly an estimate and that he and one of his employees were on Catahoula Lake for about two hours one day and picked up close to 150 dead birds. There were hundreds and hundreds of other birds that were dying from the lead poisoning which could not be reached and this went on from late November right on through the end of the duck season. Dr. Hines asked how the diagnosis was made to lead poisoning. Mr. Bateman stated that the gizzards had been opened and examined and usually some of the ducks are taken over to the LSU Vet School every year. Mr. Jones stated that people need to

bills will come up in the regular session and by that time the Commission and department will have had plenty of time to study the case in respect to all view points concluded Senator Doland. Secretary Van Sickle advised that the last time the nutria populations were in check was about eight years ago when the price was right and at that time 3.5 million nutria were being trapped. Mr. Jones stated that a study had just been done on the nutria "eatout" and a report was given which pointed out that the biologists did not think a bounty or a shoot out be suggested. Secretary Van Sickle advised that the shoot out was definitely not suggested. Mr. Jones stated that he agrees with Senator Doland that there are too many nutria but since there are a number of departmental people that are studying this issue he believes that before Senator Doland gets too far that they see what the staff believes would be the solution and work together on this. Mr. McCall advised Senator Doland that there were approximately fifty thousand nutria that died during the freeze which may have helped this issue some. Senator Doland asked what the law was pertaining to a person shooting a nutria. He was advised that it is illegal to shoot nutria outside of trapping season. A permit can be given to landowners to shoot outside of trapping season or to shoot all hours of the day. Senator Doland commented that he would have the two bills ready and if anything comes up and the bills should be amended to meet the best interest of wildlife he would be happy to amend them. Senator Doland stated that he would like to apply for a permit to eradicate nutria. Chairman Pol advised that the Commission and department will work with Senator Doland on the two bills.

Mr. Joe LeDoux, trapper, addressed the Commission. Mr. LeDoux stated that if a bounty is going to be given for the nutria why not the coyotes. This has been done in a lot of state. Chairman Pol interjected that nutria is the issue and Mr. LeDoux can bring this the coyote issue up tonight at the public hearing. The Commission and department are going to cooperate with Senator Doland in any way they can and if Mr. LeDoux wants to talk with Senator LeDoux later on about introducing a bill on coyotes that will be fine.

At Thursday's meeting Dr. Jerry Clark discussed the spotted seatrout and black drum commercial quotas. Dr. Clark reported on where the department stands on the spotted seatrout quotas. The preliminary estimate for September was 174,563 pounds, October was 113,417 pounds, November was 130,504 pounds and December's preliminary estimate for spotted seatrout was 183,189 pounds. The total is 601,673 pounds for the fishing year. The estimates for December are very preliminary because they are basically being gotten over the phone as much as the department can from the people of the National Fisheries Marine Service and some of the dealers. December is probably not as high as anticipated last time and the reasons are somewhat complex. First of which is, if the department is right about the freeze all those cold fronts throughout November and December were moving spotted seatrout out of the marsh and into

one percent of Louisianans consider themselves hunters. Sixty percent of Louisianans consider themselves fishermen. Twelve percent of Louisianans reported deriving part of their income from some commercial use of the resource. Forty-eight percent of Louisianans actively engaged in nonconsumptive wildlife activities. Twenty-two percent of Louisianans reported to have visited another state to hunt, fish or view wildlife in the past twelve months. Over ninety percent of Louisianans feel like Wildlife and Fisheries should increase a number of their activities even though such increases would result in increased expenditures. Sixty-six percent of the population rated the performance of the department as favorable which is misleading in that eighteen percent had no opinion. Some of the different funding mechanisms that were looked at were two different general sales tax mechanisms (one is a dedication of an existing portion of general sales tax and the other is a new general sales tax), entrance fees to wildlife management areas, excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment, similar excise tax on outdoor equipment, a real estate tax, fee increases (commercial and recreational), and a bottle or plastic tax on nonrefundable bottles. Concluding, Mr. Byrd advised that if there were any questions he, along with Mr. Don Lee and Mr. Mike Olinde who also worked on the project were available.

Chairman Pol called for question. Mr. Jack Surles from the audience addressed Mr. Byrd and asked about the real estate tax and what did it entail. Mr Byrd advised that there has been a number of suggestions for a real estate tax which would be like one tenth of a percent on the value of the transfer of that tax but this is not among the administratively backed measure this year. Mr. Surles, who manages wildlife areas, stated that he would be opposed to this tax primarily because he does not think the timber companies and landowners would be for it. He thinks that the sportsmen should stand on their own and pay their own bills and individuals do not need to be taxed as they are already taxed enough. Secretary Van Sickle explained that these funding sources were just ideas that the department received when examining what other states did and was just put out for the public input. The department is not planning to proceed with a real estate transfer tax but wanted to know what the public would support.

Chairman Pol called on Senator Doland to address the Commission. Senator Doland asked the opinion of the Commission and Secretary Van Sickle about a couple of bills that he has prepared and which will be brought up in the next session of the legislature. The bills pertain to nutria and what is happening to the marsh because of the nutria. Trappers use to keep the nutria populations down but now they don't trap anymore, Senator Doland pointed out. Senator Doland asked that the Commission and department give consideration for supporting these two bills. One bill is to classify the nutria as an outlaw and kill on sight and the other one deals with obtaining some coastal erosion money and putting a bounty on the nutria of fifty cents or a dollar. The



closed until the quota is reached. Mr. McCall asked what was Mr. Brown's reason for not having this acted upon today. Mr. Brown stated that this was a projected quota and was done on a computer and it has nothing to do with what is being caught. No fish are being produced in January and there are doubts if any will be in February and if it just so happens that this quota could extend into a Lenten month the fishermen would get a larger amount of money per pound for a fish then is being received now. If the quota has not been reached and the fishermen are allowed to fish during Lent it would be a big monetary improvement in their income stated Mr. Brown. Mr. McCall commented that as he understands it these are projections but the season will not be closed until the quota is reached. Secretary Van Sickle stated that she is going to try and get it down to the pound. Dr. Clark explained that he is talking about using the computer program and all the data that is available at the time and as the time gets nearer it is watched closer and is based upon the computer program and actual landings. Last year the actual reported landings were over the quota by about 30,000 pounds. Dr. Hines stated that he still thought it was premature and did not see why with only half of the catch reported that the Commission needed to act on this now. There is no way that the quota can be reached by March 1st and this is the time it should be considered after there is additional information.

Representative Randy Roach addressed the Commission and stated as he understood the resolution it says that the Secretary is directed to close the fishery on the date the quota is projected to be reached and that this is basically all it says. Couldn't something else be put in to amend the resolution to say what months, or how this is going to be done so that you don't have the specter of somebody just using three or four months worth of information so that the fishermen would know when this is going to be done. There is nothing in this resolution that says what data is going to be used to project the date on which the quota will be reached. Secretary Van Sickle pointed out that it was in the resolution (based on historical landings and cumulative commercial harvest to date) and asked what else could be added. Mr. Jones added that this is being done as a preventive measure so that the Commission will not get into a situation where they are not able to close the season without reconvening people from all over the state. Representative Roach stated that in answer to Mr. Brown's question as he looks at this statute and discussed it with Mr. Puckett, basically the Secretary has this type of generic authority but not with respect to speckled trout. The Commission has this authority and also has the authority to delegate it to the Secretary and this is what they are doing. Representative Roach stated that he was just wondering as far as the resolution was concerned what data will be used. Mr. Jones added it is the same data that has been used over the year, the historical catches, catches to date, National Marine Fisheries Services and there is a program. Representative Roach suggested that the resolution read "on the date the quota is projected to be reached based on....."

the near shore waters. They were also accumulating on balance the absence of spotted seatrout in the marsh but the accumulation sort of leaves the department trying to guess where they are. This is just going to have to be watched and as of now the department is still looking at a March closure which has not changed from the last two months. Mr. Jenkins asked how much notice was needed. Seventy two hours is needed for closure but what has traditionally been done and what is still going to be done this year is prior to this going into place the staff looked at the data and put together a program for estimating when the closure and the program is still being used advised, Dr. Clark. Dr. Clark proposed a resolution giving the Secretary of Wildlife and Fisheries the authority to close the spotted seatrout fisheries once the quota has been predicted to be reached.

Mr. Jenkins made a motion that the resolution giving the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the authority to close the spotted seatrout fisheries once the quota has been predicted to be reached be adopted and seconded by Mr. Jones.

Dr. Hines asked when Dr. Clark will get the January figures because they will be needed to predict when the quota will be reached. Dr. Clark stated that the department has predicted when the quota will be reached using the computer program for every month. Dr. Hines stated that if you don't have the January estimates and there has been a disruption and a displacement of the seatrout in December and early January it would seem like the time might be longer than if you are just using the data that you have at hand. Dr. Clark explained that the department predicts when the closure will be and continues to do this as the data comes in. A recommendation is made to the Secretary on the exact closure date when the department is confident with a good predictive date. Dr. Hines asked if the January data will be used before the final prediction for closure is made. Dr. Clark answered that they will probably be using February data as well as January.

Mr. Harry Brown, a commercial fisherman from Holly Beach, LA, addressed the Commission. Mr. Brown stated that if he was not mistaken according to the reports from the Drum Committee that the Secretary of the department already has the authorization to close the fishery when the quota was reached and talking about closing a quota at 1,250,000 pounds when all that is recorded is 183,000 pounds. Mr. Jenkins stated that there was 600,000 pounds through December and that the 183,000 pounds was for the month of December only. Mr. Brown commented that since the freeze there have been no fish produced and he was opposed to the Commission delegating the authority to the Secretary of the department to close the spotted seatrout fishery. Dr. Hines asked that since it was going to be March before the information is obtained why does the Commission have to act upon this resolution today, why not wait and see what the date is in March. Chairman Pol commented that he saw no reason why not to act on it and the season is not going to be

be given at every Commission meeting on the spotted seatrout quota and the black drum and this has been done and will continue. Representative Roach commented that if the authority is given today for the Secretary to close the spotted seatrout fishery the Commission does not anticipate the authority being exercised, although it could change, until the next meeting. Mr. Jenkins explained that the only way it would change would be if something happened like a big catch in January. Mr. McCall stated that this was the same formula that was used last year and it came out very, very close, in fact just a little bit on the high side. Secretary Van Sickle advised that if the department is off say ten percent they could possibly go back in and open up the season and allocate out the other fish. Representative Roach stated that what he is trying to say is that everybody needs to understand exactly what it means as far as the authority and as long as everyone is satisfied that the department is not going to base their decision on what is known today but basing it on much more current data than that. Mr. Jones explained that the data that will be collected will be known by the Secretary up to seventy two hours before the closing date. Representative Roach asked if the resolution actually means that it would be the date on which the quota is projected to be reached based on data, all data, which the department has as of the date on which the notice of closure is issued. Secretary Van Sickle answered this is correct. Mr. Jones stated that he thought Representative Roach was misunderstanding that a closure was being projected and possibly that Secretary Van Sickle would close it without using all the current data up to the date it is used. Representative Roach commented that what he is being told by the Commission and department is that the resolution means, "was that projected to be reached as of the date on which the notice of closure is issued so that you have all current data as of that date" and this is what the Commission and department said it was going to do and this is what it is going to be based on. The Commission agreed.

Mr. Jenkins called for the question. Chairman Pol stated that there has been a motion that the resolution be adopted relative to the closing of the spotted seatrout which was seconded by Mr. Jones. Chairman Pol called for vote. Motion passed with Dr. Hines opposing it.

(The full text of the resolution  
is made a part of the record)

Commercial Harvest of Spotted Seatrout  
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

WHEREAS, Act 889 of the 1988 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature established a quota for the commercial harvest of spotted seatrout in Louisiana at 1.25 million pounds, and

and say what you are going to base it on. This way everybody knows you are not going to base it on just the data as of today. Chairman Pol stated that the resolution will be amended and asked Representative Roach how he wanted it to read. Representative Roach stated explain what data you are going to use when you make the projection. Secretary Van Sickle suggested that in the fourth "Whereas" put "when the quota is projected to be reached, based on historical landings and cumulative commercial harvest to the date the decision that the public notice will be issued". Dr. Hines stated that he does not think historical landings are going to play a part this year because of the adverse conditions so if you just say cumulative commercial harvest that would be fine. Representative Roach suggested "cumulative commercial harvest through the date on which the notice is given". Secretary Van Sickle commented that this would be over fishing because if just cumulative commercial harvest is used we would have to wait until we had in hand 1.25 million pounds and this will be three weeks or so after it was landed and would end up being be 1.4 million pounds. Chairman Pol asked how was this resolution going to be amended? Mr. Jenkins advised that he did not think it needs amending and thinks that Representative Roach explained it pretty well and believes everyone is saying the same thing. Representative Roach asked Dr. Clark to explain the data that will be used to make the projection. Dr. Clark advised that at least two sets of data are used and maybe even three this year. One set of data is the traditional National Marine Fisheries Service landings reports which is what everything has been based on over the years. However, this year because of the black drum interest and also the question about the spotted seatrout the phones have been used repeatedly talking to the actual National Marine Fisheries Service people who collect the data and have also been contacting dealers, those people that are known to handle spotted seatrout, to obtain data. The new commercial landings report will be in place and also will be used to obtain data. Every piece of information that is obtained will be used and this is being done every day advised Dr. Clark. Secretary Van Sickle is trying to point out that the date at which the recommended closure will be made is an unknown date, the reason being it is unknown is because it will be based upon the data collected and if the data goes up very rapidly it will be very soon but if the data follows historical patterns it probably will not be until the end of February first part of March before the recommendation is made explained Dr. Clark. The recommendation will not be made until the department has the data that they are sure will lead to the quota having been met. Representative Roach commented that Dr. Clark had indicated in response to a question asked earlier that the projection could not be made right now and it would have to be based on more current data which has yet to come in, was this correct. Dr. Clark acknowledged this was correct but added that the truth of the matter is that a projected closure date has been made on the basis of the computer program which will be in March. Dr. Clark advised that Commissioner Jenkins had asked that a report

70,000 fish which is not even near the quota, do not anticipate the quota to be met and in good shape on black drum through the first six month time period. The Commission was informed at a previous meeting that the first interim emergency rule was followed up with a permanent rule because it was anticipated that the black drum plan would not be completed until after the emergency rule expires. This has transpired and the black drum plan has not been finished and probably won't for another sixty days Dr. Clark informed the Commission. The permanent rule was identical to the first emergency rule and the House Oversight Committee overturned the rule because they thought that other forms of rules would have been more appropriate. A letter has been received from the House Oversight Committee informing the department of this and suggesting that black drum rules in the future should be more like the original staff recommendation that included a slot limit for black drum. It is decision making time today advised Dr. Clark because the first emergency rule is about to expire and if nothing is done it will leave the black drum resource unregulated and given historic high levels of harvest, this would seem to be an inappropriate thing to do. The staff is proposing a second emergency rule identical to the first emergency rule and to complete the black drum plan as fast as possible and come back at that point in time with a permanent rule that would reflect what the plan says, would reflect staff recommendations, would reflect advice from the Oversight Committee and probably will look more like the original staff recommendation explained Dr. Clark. The declaration of emergency and resolution that is being brought before the Commission does two things. It will reinstate the Commission's previous emergency rules with a fourteen inch minimum for recreational fishery and an eighteen inch minimum for the commercial fishery and a second three hundred thousand fish quota that would follow up the first three hundred thousand fish quota. This will be adopted on an emergency basis and would exist only to such time as the black drum plan is completed which at that time will be brought to the Commission with a final permanent rule. Mr. Pol asked for an estimate of time as what this will take. Dr. Clark advised that he had talked to his staff and the best estimate would be another sixty days. Some of the reasons for the delays are: the original stock assessment that was mailed out included two fairly divergent opinions and was mailed out for peer review to about twelve to fifteen scientists throughout the United States more than a month ago and only one comment has been received back; some of the department personnel are doing some of the stock assessment work that was not anticipated because of the work that others are doing for the department. Chairman Pol asked if the final rule is accepted by the Commission will it go back before the Oversight Committee for their approval. Dr. Clark answered yes, anything that is done on a permanent basis needs to go back to the Oversight Committee. Dr. Clark also informed the Commission that they had adopted an emergency rule of a certain type, then adopted a permanent rule identical to the emergency rule and when Oversight objected the permanent rule and the department now recommends the

WHEREAS, on September 3, 1987 the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declared the commercial quota year for spotted seatrout to begin on September 1, 1987 and end on August 31, 1988 and on an annual basis thereafter, and

WHEREAS, the Commission is authorized to close finfish seasons using the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:967, and

WHEREAS, Act 889 directs the Commission to close the commercial spotted seatrout fishery when the quota is projected to be reached, and

WHEREAS, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists, based on historical landings and cumulative commercial harvest to date, project that the spotted seatrout quota will be reached during the month of March 1990, and

WHEREAS, updated harvest figures could cause the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists to revise their projection forward, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Louisiana and Fisheries Commission that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized and directed to close the commercial fishery for spotted seatrout on the date the quota is projected to be reached as provided in R.S. 56:325.3, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice to the public shall be given seventy-two hours prior to the effect of the closure, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the purchase, barter, trade, or sale of spotted seatrout taken from Louisiana waters after the closure is prohibited, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commercial taking or landing of spotted seatrout in Louisiana, whether caught within or without the territorial waters of Louisiana, after the closure is prohibited, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no vessel possession or fishing any seine, gill net, trammel net, or hoop net shall have a spotted seatrout aboard the vessel, whether caught within or without the waters of the state, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that nothing shall prohibit the possession of fish legally taken prior to the closure.

At Thursday's meeting Dr. Jerry Clark reported on the extension of interim black drum measures. Dr. Clark advised that the current estimate for the black drum quota through December is

hard to manage or the improper thing to do. Dr. Clark answered that he believes that when this process is completed the department will not come back to the Commission with this set of rules. Dr. Clark added, however, these rules have already been in place and by April it will have been for 120 days and if something else is adopted now for another 120 days the department will probably come back with a different set of rules 120 days from now and in a six month time period there will have been three completely different sets of rules and cannot recommend that the Commission do this. Chairman Pols stated that he does not want to agitate the Oversight Committee but want them to understand that the reason why they are in this mess right now is because the Commission took the suggestions and agreements of all the people that were on the Task Force Committee for the black drum and something has to be done to keep the rules going until a plan can be developed that will suit everyone. Dr. Clark advised that the reason the department is back before the Commission without a completed plan is because they have had to rely upon volunteer efforts and others to help do the work that needs to get done but are going to take control of that work and do it themselves and will be back within sixty days with a final proposed rule. Chairman Pol called for questions.

Representative Randy Roach, Lake Charles, LA, addressed the Commission. Representative Roach was on the Oversight Committee and stated that he was not necessarily disagreeing with what Dr. Clark has told the Commission about what the Oversight's thinking was when they rejected the rule. At this point Representative Roach gave his interpretation of what happened at the hearing. When the committee heard about the rule and received the information it was discussed by the committee and they talked with Dr. Clark and other people in the department about what the original proposal was and why they made the original proposal and this made pretty good sense to the Oversight committee. This proposal was put before the task force and they disagreed with it. Representative Roach believes that task forces are good ideas but does not believe that a task force should dictate what is going to be done. When the committee took a look at the fishery, the biology and everything else that enters into it the committee could find no rational justification for this type of limit based on the questioning that took place at the hearing and basically what is being done as Representative Roach sees it a fishery is being opened to harvest and keying that harvest on the very fish that should be protected in terms of the spawn stock. Many of the fish in this category are perhaps the least desirable fish from a commercial standpoint. Texas and Florida have adopted a slot limit and the slot limit that has been adopted is substantially similar to the one that was originally proposed. There is no biological reason why Louisiana should follow any other type of approach to management of the fishery. Representative Roach stated that he thinks it is known that we need to live with a slot limit which is biologically sound and it is the type of management that should be encouraged. The committee did not hear anything at the hearing as

Commission to come back with an identical second emergency and in some respects there is difficulty with this. The difficulty is that by coming back with an identical emergency the Commission is in some respect second guessing the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) because the APA serves as an oversight to the Commission's actions and they have rejected those actions. There is some legal opinion that this can create a problem stated Dr. Clark which would be a legal problem to the challenge of the rule. Chairman Pol asked if basically what the Commission is doing is asking the Oversight Committee to give them sixty days to come up with a plan that we can give back to them. Dr. Clark stated exactly. Mr. Jenkins suggested that Dr. Clark go back over the review of how this came to being, what the original recommendations were and why they were changed. Dr. Clark explained that the original recommendation from the staff to the Commission was a sixteen to twenty four inch slot limit as an interim emergency measure until a plan for black drum could be put into place. At the meeting which this was presented to the Commission there was considerable public comment and it was the feeling of the Commission at that time that they directed the staff to go back and meet with the public, both recreational and commercial fishermen who were unhappy with the original proposed rule, in an attempt to reach a compromise that the majority of people who are interested in the issue could support as an interim rule. The department had a series of meetings one of which went for almost twelve hours at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building on Quail Drive in Baton Rouge. A week later there was a second meeting in New Orleans that went on well into the evening that included both recreational and commercial fishermen. What the Commissioners now have in front of them and what they adopted as an emergency was the results of those meetings. This rule as an emergency was adopted at the Commission meeting at Toledo Bend and both recreational and commercial fishermen came before the Commission and testified in favor of this emergency rule with no opposition at the meeting to this proposed interim emergency rule stated Dr. Clark. This is the history of how the permanent rule came to be that was rejected by the Oversight Committee advised Dr. Clark. Mr. Jenkins stated that what the department did was go through the public process, talked to lots and lots of people and the department's recommendation could have been either one of the two recommendations and either one would have solved the biological problem. Because of so much interest by so many people statewide in this problem the department went through the process of trying to hammer out a plan that the vast majority of the people and the fishermen in the state were interested in and this was what was adopted. This went to the Oversight Committee and for what ever reason they said it was not a good plan. Although this was an interim plan and a short term plan it was not the permanent plan so the Commission is now faced with going through the emergency procedures again to come up with another temporary solution to the problem state Mr. Jenkins and asked if it was Dr. Clark's opinion if they change from what they have been doing to something else on an interim basis it would be



to come back today and advise what to do he would probably have one commercial slot that might be something like the original sixteen to twenty four inch but would probably try to do something with the bag limit for recreational fishermen to reduce their harvest and maybe not even use a slot for them. A lot has been learned since the interim process started which was meant to slow the fishery down and to do the least amount of damage as possible to the people involved with the fishery during the interim and then come back with a permanent rule. The department is not there yet because it doesn't have the best estimates of the annual fishing mortality by age class but will have this very soon commented Dr. Clark. Dr. Clark still supports rules much like the ones that were originally proposed and will work to make this the recommendation.

Representative Roach stated that this was the impression that the Oversight committee had and that is why the other was rejected as a permanent rule and the committee cannot understand why the slot limit cannot go and be adopted as the department was ready originally. Dr. Clark explained that the department was ready originally to do something on the interim that was expected to change when the permanent rule was done and still in this position. Dr. Clark stated that if he were asked today what the slot limit should be or what the bag limit should be for recreational and commercial fishermen he could only guess which he does not want to do. Representative Roach asked if Texas and Florida had a slot limit for recreational and is it not basically the same as it is for the commercial. Dr. Clark answered yes but he was in Texas and saw the length frequencies of the recreational catch and they are different then they are in Louisiana, they catch bigger one than are caught in Louisiana. Mr. Jones stated that Dr. Clark was the one that set the Texas regulations as this was where he was employed prior to coming to Louisiana. Representative Roach stated this was why he was wondering why Texas did this and why Louisiana can't. Dr. Clark answered the states are different, there are no nets in the inside waters of Texas. Representative Roach explained what he was talking about was the biological data that is used when the fish is evaluated, talking about basically the same fish. Mr. McCall asked Representative Roach if he was opposed to another sixty days to try and get a better plan. Representative Roach stated the way that the rule is presently proposed is that as far as the commercial value of the fishery is concerned there are a substantial number of fish being excluded from the catch and it is having an impact on the commercial fishing industry. If the department wants to continue and extend it another sixty days, ninety days or one hundred and twenty days it is the Commissions' prerogative but still it is being done at a significant impact on a significant number of fishermen across the state who are not rejecting the idea of a slot limit commented Representative Roach. Mr. McCall stated that they wanted to do this right and at the same time try not to hurt the commercial fishermen or the sports fishermen. Mr. Jones stated that the majority of fishermen across the state agreed that this interim measure was the best until a

to why a slot limit should not be adopted advised Representative Roach and asked the Commission to consider this. From a commercial standpoint the most desirable valuable fish are the fish within the slot limit and your most productive fish from a biological standpoint in terms of the spawning, etc. your brood stock are the fish that are over the 24-27 inch range and this regulation in a sense discourages the harvest of the fish from 14-18, prohibits it, and in a sense encourages the harvest of the brood stock and based on biological data if that is what the decisions are being based on Representative Roach does not see, if there is an emergency, why an emergency rule should be allowed to continue that concentrates and allows the harvest of the fish in that category.

Secretary Van Sickle stated that the Commission was repeatedly assured, as well as herself, that this biologically was an equally sound proposal as the slot was based upon the information that was available at the time, prior to the completion of the stock assessment. The stock assessments are being completed and in sixty days there will be a formal plan and a permanent rule will be presented to the Oversight committee.

Mr. Jenkins asked Representative Roach who they talked to at the Oversight Committee and what group of fishermen did they listen to. Representative Roach stated that the hearing was very sparsely attended. Mr. Jenkins stated that is what he had understood and the Commission and department have talked to hundreds of people through a series of meetings and he does not believe just because a few people wanted the slot limit that it should be changed. Representative Roach pointed out that when you look at what Texas has done and look at what Florida has done and he would assume they are basing it on the same biological standards in terms of being concerned about the fishery and preserving the fishery as well as preserving the industry and trying to accommodate the interest of both, they use the slot limit. The original recommendation was a slot limit and Representative Roach still thinks that this is the way the Commission should proceed. Representative Roach asked what addition information needs to be evaluated before the Commission can make its decision. Dr. Clark answered that the single most important piece of information that has not been tied down is the mortality by age. Total mortality is important but if regulations are trying to be directed there needs to be a good handle on what the mortality is by age using the current fishing methods. Dr. Clark stated that right now he would not defend the original preliminary sixteen to twenty-four inch slot for everyone because it would not be appropriate on the basis of the information that is available right now. The recreational fishermen tend to harvest much smaller fish than this and the original sixteen to twenty-four inch slot would have almost put them out of the business of harvesting black drum. The department was willing to live with this on an interim basis only to slow down the fisheries. What the department is looking at now are the actual mortalities by age class (1, 2, 3, & 4). Dr. Clark stated that right now if he had

Mr. C. J. Kiffe, representing the Coastal Concern Organization also the commercial fishermen of Cameron parish, addressed the Commission. Mr. Kiffe stated that according to what Dr. Clark said a while ago he believes that since the emergency went into effect there was seventy thousand heads of fish caught. The emergency calls for three hundred thousand heads and if there is such an emergency in the black drum fishery then doing it three at a time there should have been more than seventy thousand head of drum caught. To Mr. Kiffe's estimation there is no emergency as far as black drum is concerned. Mr. Kiffe was on the Black Drum Task Force and the task force did not recommend eighteen inch on up, they recommended sixteen to twenty-seven inch drum. The reason this was recommended was because a sow drum, bull drum will put up anywhere from six to eleven million eggs. The sow drum and the small drum have got to be protected, stated Mr. Kiffe. Texas has a fourteen to thirty inches for commercial and recreational. Florida has fourteen to twenty-four inches for commercial fishermen and recreational fishermen with five hundred pounds per day per boat. Mr. Kiffe does not agree with Dr. Clark.

Mr. Harry Brown addressed the Commission. Mr. Brown was a member of the Ad Hoc Black Drum Committee that was designated to address this situation. Mr. Brown stated that the committee consisted of primarily big drum harvesters in the New Orleans area and they represented the people that were harvesting the large drum. There was a problem in Lake Pontchartrain last summer with the seines and spotter planes and Bob Marshal wrote his articles in the Times-Picayune causing trouble for everyone and right away there had to be emergency measures to take care of the drum situation to satisfy the general public which he understands stated Mr. Brown. An emergency was enacted which said there was a catch of eighteen inch fish with no top limit on how big there are but can only harvest three hundred thousand fish. In western Louisiana people do not participate in a large drum fishery because they would rather leave those large fish there to replenish the resource rather than see them harvested. This emergency resolution that has been adopted is the furthest thing from handling the problem because you don't have any restriction on the large fish at all commented Mr. Brown. The western side of the state was out voted during the meetings on black drum Mr. Brown informed the Commission. Secretary Van Sickle asked Mr. Brown if he had missed a couple of the meetings. Mr. Brown informed the Commission that he had but he had been sick. There is a problem with the large drum fishery but they are not harvested in the western side of the state and anytime Mr. Kiffe has to catch an eighteen inch fish versus a fourteen inch fish it affects his economy tremendously. Concluding, Mr. Kiffe stated that any consideration that the Commission could give the fishermen on this would be appreciated.

Dr. Hines asked Dr. Clark what he thought attributed to the low catch of black drum during the three month period. Dr. Clark

permanent plan could be figured out and he sympathized with Representative Roach's position of being obviously in an area that is sensitive to the interim measures. Mr. Jones asked Dr. Clark if this was not the consensus that came out that this interim measure would be the best workable. Dr. Clark stated that this was as close to a consensus as he has ever seen in fishery management. The Commission and department is trying to do what is best for all and not be totally affected by a small portion that will disrupt the masses. Representative Roach suggested to the Commission that perhaps some of the people on the task force represented a fishery that concentrates on the larger fish and just because a task force makes a recommendation people should not be necessarily bound by that decision. When the Oversight committee had looked this over they felt like the original recommendation, somewhere in the slot similar to what Texas and Florida had proposed, would have been fair for all the fishery explained Representative Roach. Chairman Pol stated that he has been totally opposed to task forces and he agrees with Representative Roach that this is shirking your responsibilities. Task forces have been formed that the Commission did not know anything about. Representative Roach stated that he is not opposed to task forces per se and thinks public involvement should be encouraged but what he is saying is that he does not think that just because the task force says that it is so that it should be done. Mr. McCall explained the slot limits of Florida and Texas which differ quite a bit. The question Mr. McCall is asking do the fishermen think it would hurt to let this emergency go back into effect for sixty days to try and get the data that is necessary to come up with a good plan?

Representative Roach stated that he felt the answer to the question is that they feel, yes, that it would be a detrimental reason being this has not been the best year due to circumstances beyond control. At this point Chairman Pol asked Dr. Clark if it would be possible to use the original slot declaration and let that be the emergency declaration until the final rule is finished. Dr. Clark stated that this could be done but he would not recommend it because there would be three different sets of rules within seventy days which creates a law enforcement problem, a problem in the minds of fishermen, an educational problem. A short discussion followed on the resolution and declaration of emergency with Mr. Puckett, Legal Counsel, advising approval of the resolution is approval of the declaration of emergency since it is incorporated into the resolution. Mr. Jenkins read the resolution and made a motion that the resolution on black drum be adopted. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Dr. Clark brought to the attention of the Commission that where the resolution says the rules as adopted in the first instance, those are the second paragraph on the declaration of emergency and being noticed by reference. At this point Dr. Clark read those rules into the record. Chairman Pol called for questions from the audience.

because a whole series of negotiations had taken place throughout Louisiana. The representatives from western Louisiana who were on the task force, in fact did not attend the meetings where this discussion took place. There were small drum fishermen east of the river who did participate and were represented on the task force. There was very good cooperation from both the recreational and commercial fishermen on the black drum issue and the recreational fishermen who are not attending the meeting today may not want these rules withdrawn pointed out Dr. Clark. Mr. Jenkins stated that he agrees with Dr. Clark and believes that the Commission would be acting in bad faith if they did something like this and he is going to stick with his motion.

Chairman Pol asked Mr. Jenkins to restate his motion. Mr. Jenkins concurred and Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Dr. Hines stated that the primary purpose of all of this discussion and everything is to develop a long range plan for the black drum fisheries and it has been clearly pointed out today that there is no need for an emergency measure. The existing interim measure expires on February 9th and it could die a natural death and move forward developing this plan and within sixty days there would be a permanent plan without punishing anybody. This would also give everyone a chance to see within the next sixty days how the fisheries are affected by opening it wide open. If there are only seventy thousand fish caught in the next sixty days maybe no long range plan is needed but if there is two hundred and fifty or three hundred thousand fish caught then a long range plan is needed stated Dr. Hines. (Dr. Hines feels like a long range plan is needed regardless.) Dr. Hines made a substitute motion that no action be taken on the declaration of emergency at this time. Seconded by Mr. McCall. Chairman Pol called for vote on substitution motion. Dr. Hines and Mr. McCall voted in favor of motion with Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Jones voted against motion. Chairman Pol abstained. Substitute motion failed.

Mr. Jenkins called for question on original motion. Motion was made by Mr. Jenkins and seconded by Mr. Jones. Dr. Hines and Mr. McCall voted against motion. Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Jones voted for motion. There being a tie with 2 to 2, Chairman Pol voted for motion. Motion passed 3 to 2.

(The full text of the resolution  
is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, on October 5, 1989 the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission established interim regulations to slow down the harvest of black drum, and

WHEREAS, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission originally intended for the interim regulations to be operative until permanent measures could be developed and implemented, and

stated he thought there were numerous reasons: the weather, the prices and the new regulations. Mr. Jones asked Dr. Clark if he could get a permanent rule within the sixty days that they have been talking about. Dr. Clark stated that they will be back before the Commission with a recommendation within sixty days for a permanent rule. Secretary Van Sickle asked what were the chances of reaching three hundred thousand fish in sixty days. Dr. Clark answered he did not know. Secretary Van Sickle called on Mr. John Roussel and he advised a hundred thousand in sixty days. Dr. Hines stated that you will have to catch two hundred and twenty thousand by April 12 according to the resolution but what are the chances of catching the two hundred twenty thousand fish by April 12. Mr. Roussel answered, not good. Chairman Pol asked if at the end of the sixty days, can the Commission then enact a new resolution, encompass the changes and adopt it. Dr. Clark answered if there is regulatory authority to do all the things that have been brought up such as bag limits, etc. they probably could. Mr. Puckett will check on this, advised Dr. Clark.

Chairman Pol asked Mr. Jenkins if he would be willing to withdraw his motion on adopting the resolution on black drum and the Commission agree that there be no emergency resolution for the next sixty days and at the end of sixty days Dr. Clark come up with a permanent solution that will be agreeable to everyone which will then come before the Commission and go through all the proper procedures. Mr. Jenkins stated that he would have to think about this for a little while. His initial answer would be no because it would be saying that there is not an emergency nor a problem in the fishery if the Commission is just going to let it go back to the way it was. Chairman Pol commented it would only go back for a period of sixty days and reaching the full quota within this time is unlikely. Mr. Jenkins asked if the emergency measure would be in effect and the fish are not caught what is the difference if you have it or you don't have it. If you are not going to be stopped by the limit within the sixty days and the emergency resolution is in effect what is the fishermen's problem. Chairman Pol explained that the fishermen's problem is if the Commission lets the resolution die (one in effect for 120 days) then for all practical purposes for the next sixty days they will really not be bound by anything at all. Mr. Jenkins asked Dr. Clark if the fishermen were concerned about the size of the fish they can catch or was it the number of fish to be caught. Dr. Clark answered it was the size limit that is being recommended that the majority of the people at the meeting were concerned about which is an eighteen inch minimum. Dr. Clark pointed out that the difference between what is being proposed and what was originally proposed is two inches (original was sixteen to twenty-four inches). Mr. Jenkins asked Dr. Clark what was the objective. Dr. Clark stated that the objective was to not create confusion in the fishing industry by adopting four different sets of rules over a two or three month period and this is what the Commission is talking about now. Dr. Clark cannot personally recommend this and pointed out there is a recommendation

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission recognizes that black drum landings have increased significantly from 1984-1988 and finds that preliminary estimates of current levels of fishing mortality are higher than desirable. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission acknowledges the importance of stabilizing fishing mortality rates at a level which will maintain an age structure that would ensure a healthy fishery in the future.

At Thursday's meeting Colonel Winton Vidrine introduced Mr. Richard Cockern and Mr. Thomas Becknell of Shikar Safari Club International. At this point during the meeting Mr. Cockern and Mr. Becknell presented an award to Lt. Chauvin as Louisiana's Outstanding Wildlife Officer for 1989. Last years selection of Outstanding Wildlife Officer was Agent Dufoue and his award was also presented at this meeting. Mr. Becknell stated that he and Mr. Cockern were happy to be attending the meeting and read a letter from Shikar Safari Club to both officers for a job well done.

Colonel Vidrine asked Mr. Jack Paybody, Vice President of Operations Game Thief to come forward. Mr. Paybody summarized the Operation Game Thief program for those who were not familiar with it. In the last five years there has been some 425 people arrested for wildlife violations and around fifty thousand dollars has been pay out in rewards. Violations have ranged from the killing of song birds to the interstate transportation of game fish. Mr. Paybody stated that he was attending the meeting to thank Secretary Van Sickle for her help and support and presented her with an award.

At Thursday's meeting Colonel Winton Vidrine gave the monthly law enforcement report for January. Colonel Vidrine reported that for the month of January the enforcement officers and the specialists from the Game Division, Fur and Refuge made a total of 1,601 cases. Comparing it with last year's monthly case report there were 1,380 cases made showing an increase of 221 cases.

At Thursday's meeting Colonel Vidrine gave the law enforcement migratory waterfowl report for 1989-90 season. An annual migratory bird case report was provided to each Commissioner. Colonel Vidrine reported that the enforcement officers and the specialists checked 8,596 hunters and issued 907 citations. From these citations 141 people were charged with over limit of ducks. Comparing it with last year there were 6,264 hunters checked and 815 citations written. Last year there was a twelve percent violation and this year there was a ten percent violation showing a decrease. Colonel Vidrine asked if there were any questions. Mr. Jones asked if the other divisions had quit helping in enforcement as he noticed other department citations this year were 87 as compared to the prior year of 185. Secretary Van Sickle asked Mr. Hugh Bateman to address this. Mr. Bateman stated that this year part of the figures that Colonel Vidrine gave included

WHEREAS, The existing interim measures will expire on February 9, 1990, under the constraints of the Emergency Provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission by Emergency Declaration does hereby extend until noon April 12, 1990 the interim black drum regulations originally adopted at its October 5, 1989 meeting, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That beginning noon April 12, 1990 the interim black drum regulations originally adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on October 5, 1989 will be reinstated, including a second 300,000 fish quota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to enact an emergency closure, upon seventy-two (72) hours notice, when either quota is met.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, A copy of the Emergency Declaration is attached to and make a part of this resolution.

(The full text of the emergency declaration is made a part of the record)

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and 967(D) of the Administrative Procedures Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:326.1 and 326.3 the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby finds that preliminary estimates of fishing mortality on black drum if unregulated would be higher than desirable and accordingly adopts the following emergency rule:

Effective at 12:00 noon on February 9, 1990, there is hereby established for the recreational taking and possession of black drum, within and without state waters, a minimum size limit of 14 inches total length, and for the commercial taking and possession of black drum, within and without state waters, a minimum size limit of 18 inches total length.

There is further hereby established for the commercial taking of black drum an interim quota of 300,000 fish for the period October 12, 1989 through April 12, and beginning April 12, 1990, and additional quota of 300,000 fish.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to enact an emergency closure, upon seventy-two (72) hours notice, when either quota is met.



department until the boat is bonded out or the violator bonds out of jail. The first year the two offshore boats were in operation they made about eleven hundred cases. On its maiden voyage Colonel Clark took the Delta Tide out and forty two trawlers were caught in one night. This does not happen any more explained Colonel Clark. They go out, spend a lot of time, check a lot of boats and make a lot of public contact, but do not make a whole lot of cases. The boats are used in a lot of other activities which include search and rescue, support activities for the United States Coast Guard, special marine events, downed aircraft, beach clean up programs, taking congressional delegation to eroding marshes, etc. These boats are used to compliment the department and the services that are provided in many, many ways but fish and wildlife are the number one priority. By lending support to other agencies the department also receives support from other agencies such as the United States Coast Guard which saves a lot of money for routine patrol. Colonel Clark pointed out that in the three hundred and thirty cases there were one hundred and twenty five trawl cases involved which are more serious violations. In comparison with the coastal agents all along the coast from Texas to Mississippi these two boats have about eighty four percent of all the trawling in close season cases made in the state of Louisiana. Last year they seized almost seventeen thousand pounds of shrimp off of boats, sixty nine thousand one hundred feet of illegal gill net in the water and between yesterday and today they picked up another twenty seven thousand feet stated Colonel Clark. This time of the year would be the boats most active role in fish itself but December and January were very, very slow. The Rip Tide was sent around the Mississippi River last week and through Vermilion Bay and only four boats were checked. From a cost productive point of view the department tries to have individuals, whether they are agents in the field or the supervisors in the regional offices, tell about activities that are starting up. Colonel Clark concluded that what they are literally trying to do is pin point the activity and be productive and stay within a management parameter of the money and budget.

Mr. McCall asked about the special marine events, six days, was this one event. Colonel Clark answered that this was six different events. Mr. McCall asked that when the boat is run offshore is there a two man crew, three or four. Colonel Clark answered there was a two man crew. Mr. McCall stated that as he understood it there were three hundred and thirty-nine total cases last year with two boats or about one hundred and sixty- eight cases per boat average, give or take. The running time was one thousand two hundred and fifty- two hours for two boats or six hundred and twenty- five hours per boat. Colonel Clark injected at this point that Mr. McCall has to take into consideration that the Rip Tide was repowered last year and down about a month plus three week of experimental stages. Mr. McCall asked about the price of the boats. Colonel Clark stated that one cost \$440,000 new and the other cost \$220,000. Mr. McCall advised that he has

the bag check work that the employees of the Game division and the Refuge division do on those areas. This year about as many people or more were checked on the wildlife management areas and the difference in cases made was that there was a very, very low violation rate this year stated Mr. Bateman.

Colonel Vidrine stated that he would like to recognize P.P.G. Industries of Lake Charles who donated twelve four-wheelers to the Enforcement Division.

At Thursday's meeting the annual report on the large patrol offshore boats was given by Colonel Charlie Clark, Assistant Chief of Enforcement Division and Supervisor of the Saltwater Enforcement Patrol. The Saltwater Enforcement Patrol consists of two large boats, one is sixty-five feet and the other is forty seven feet and are used to patrol the coastal waters and generally they are constrained by five foot of draft and they work outward of five foot. Eight positions are allocated for these boats, however currently there are only seven and it is very difficult to hire individuals for these boats or to keep them once they are trained. The budget allocation for a year is about \$282,000. In 1983 when the boats were first brought upon the line the budget was about \$410,000. The operations have been streamlined down to a point where the budget is still healthy but literally have to manage what is done and how it is done, reported Colonel Clark. In the operating services money there is about thirty-eight percent of the money exhausted along with about fifty-nine percent in the operating supplies which is repairs. Looking at the year and the kind of work that is done in the cycle seventy percent of the work cycle will be coming up, stated Colonel Clark. The boats will get very, very active generally about the first of March when the pink shrimp start showing up in Chandeleur Sound around North Island. Try to follow the resources to be productive positive, where and if the resource is found and can stay on top of it can also find the violators. Colonel Clark explained that last year the number of hours on the boats was twelve hundred which was pretty low. These boats usually average about a thousand hours a piece. During this particular the Delta Tide who has not had a Captain which means there were six twelve hours cycles and an eight hour day. So one crew goes out for a seven day period. What has had to be done in the interim because there is no one else in the department who has a 100 ton ocean operator license is run three man crews on one boat during the cycle shift which has left one boat sitting at the dock during the month. As far as the performance rating the boats are generally run about a thousand hours and in that thousand hours the resource will be found. The boats generally stay with the big boats and work as a support activity on the inside waters. Last year there were three hundred and thirty nine cases made and comparatively speaking over the last three years is about seventy five cases less. Thirty large offshore boats were seized this year and this process takes time, explained Colonel Clark. Once these boats have been seized they remains the responsibility of the

Representative Roach addressed the Commission and stated that first of all despite what has transpired this afternoon he appreciated the Commission coming to Lake Charles and really wanted to let the Commission know how much the Legislature appreciate the jobs that the Commissioners have and the jobs that they have to do. Representative Roach advised that he had learned a lot this afternoon and he knows that the Commission has decision they have to make and he understands this. On February 19, there will be a special Coastal Resources Subcommittee hearing in Baton Rouge and at this time there will be sort of a state of the state review of the fishing industry and other activities involved in the coastal regions of Louisiana. Representative Roach invited the Commissioners to attend this hearing. Some of the items that will be discussed are: The Impacts of the Freeze and Other Natural Disasters in Coastal Louisiana, The Trends in Commercial and Recreational Fishing Both Inshore and Offshore, Report from the Fur and Alligator Council on the Fur Industry, brief summary of the Status of the Recommendations and Activities of the Task Forces that have been ongoing as well as a report from the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission regarding their activities. Representative Roach encouraged those that can attend to come to the hearing and give feedback to let them know how the Commission feels about how things are going, the legislative framework or the regulatory frame work in which the Commission has to operate. Representative Roach mentioned a couple of pieces of legislation which will impact the Commission and department which he will be introducing in conjunction with some other legislators. One is to establish an auxiliary enforcement wing within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, another would be a bill seeking to authorize the Secretary to use the U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents to assist in the enforcement efforts. A bill pertaining to this was introduced once before, but failed the House by three or four votes. Representative Roach thanked the Commission.

At Thursday's meeting Secretary Van Sickle gave her report to the Commission. Secretary Van Sickle reported that the Legislative Review meeting was held and picked up on the Commission's advice pertaining to deleting certain bills. She went to the Governor's office and met with Tom Casey and six more bills were deleted getting it down to thirty pieces of legislation and the major ones still need to go before the Governor.

Colonel Clark was invited to go to the state of Hawaii and a letter was received from the Chairman of the House Committee on Ocean and Marine Resources stating appreciation for his input into the development of a law enforcement program in Hawaii.

The public information efforts that were started about a year ago are paying off. Secretary Van Sickle pointed out news clippings from one week of coverage that Mr. Keith LaCaze is putting out for information about what the enforcement personnel are doing.

a problem with this much money being tied up in boats, the value of the boats, the number of people it takes and the amount of money it takes to operate these vessels and come up with one hundred sixty eight cases per boat or three hundred and thirty nine cases for two boats. Colonel Clark explained that he is a pass Regional Major for Region VIII and he was one of the little guys who got in the eighteen and nineteen foot boats and tried to enforce places like Breton, Chandeleur Sound and the Gulf of Mexico off Grand Isle. The kinds of equipment that would have to be bought and the manpower that would have to be supplied to get in very small boats and go out and enforce the law would not be worth the effort, number one and number two, it could not be done because the fishermen will be trawling in five and six foot seas. These boats are needed and by having these boats out there the individuals in the regions are being freed to go and do other things within the inside water system so literally you are accounting triple and quadruple your manpower by allowing these agents the time to go inshore and work the operations while the big boats are taking care of the problems offshore. Mr. McCall stated that he had no problem with the big boats if they would be used but you cannot tell him that twelve hundred and fifty- two hours a year for two boats is very much use. Colonel Clark stated that it is no running time but for him to tell McCall that if he had \$500,000 in the budget he could press the buttons on them and go but this does not necessarily mean that any more cases are going to be made. Mr. McCall asked if there was any room for improvement to get more cases. Colonel Clark stated to get more cases he would have to have more manpower put on the boats to where they literally run twenty- four hours a day, no down time. The personnel now work six twelve hour shifts, one eight hour day and the eighth day generally they have to come into the dock when they have bent propellers, clean the boat out, change the oil etc. To be more productive Colonel Clark stated that he had to have more productive time and the only way to do this is to increase the running time that Mr. McCall is saying, but in many, many instances if the shift would be doubled or quadrupled he could not promise more production because it is based upon the violators being there. Mr. McCall stated that ever since he has been on the Commission he has been hearing complaints from the Texas coast to Intracoastal City about very little patrolling offshore when the season is closed. Colonel Clark commented that he would like to bring copies of the citations that were issued in that area to next month's Commission meeting. Mr. McCall stated that since they were pressed for time he was going to look over the report and would like to bring it back up at a later meeting. Chairman Pol asked that the Commission take this under advisement and at the next meeting discuss it with Colonel Clark.

Mr. Puckett, Legal Counsel, advised the Commission that Representative Roach has to leave and he has requested permission to address the Commission briefly.

made and the job was offered to one of the applicants and he declined. Since that time another list (promotional) has been called for and the list is sitting on Mr. Tarver's desk as he speaks. Interviews are set up for next Wednesday. This is for the position of the coordinator. Secretary Van Sickle asked about the other two positions. Mr. Tarver advised that he was holding off on hiring the other two until the coordinator is in place so that he will be able to participate in the interview process. Secretary Van Sickle stated that when she authorized the positions to be filled, that also the job descriptions be written up and submitted to Civil Service, was this done/ Mr. Tarver answered it was done and explained that the Civil Service process is often a very slow process.

Mr. McCall continued and stated that today has been the eighteenth day that there has been no oyster fishing in Calcasieu Lake due to high water and pollution. And with the way it looks outside and the heights of the river Mr. McCall was sure that there would be another twelve, fifteen, eighteen days or more so the outlook is that there will be a month of fishing time lost in Calcasieu Lake. Mr. McCall advised that he wanted the Commission to be aware of this and possibly consider, at the appropriate time, to grant an extension maybe to April 1st for the oyster fishermen in Calcasieu Lake. Secretary Van Sickle stated that this can be considered and asked Dr. Clark to look into this extension and see if it can be extended without endangering public health and safety or the reefs themselves.

Mr. C. J. Kiffe addressed the Commission. Mr. Kiffe stated that last year, 1988, the regular oyster season closed March 29th, thirty minutes after sundown. During the open season there were sixty three days and seventy nine days of closed season. There was an extension of thirty days which was brought about by Representative Randy Roach passing a resolution in the legislature. Overall with the extension of thirty days plus the regular season there was a closure of ninety one days that the oyster fishermen could not fish because of high water. There was ninety-one days of closure and only eighty-three days opened where the oyster fishermen could work, pointed out Mr. Kiffe.

At Thursday's meeting Chairman Pol stated that Mr. Hugh Bateman wanted to present an item to the Commission for consideration. Mr. Jones moved that Mr. Bateman present the item before the Commission, seconded by Mr. Jenkins and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hugh Bateman introduced to the Commission a proposal that the department staff and Forest Service staff has been working on in regard to deer hunting. At this time, and only for informational purposes, Mr. Bateman stated that a very brief overview of the proposal would be given. A copy of the proposal and Louisiana state map showing properties was supplied to each

There was an artificial reef public hearing last night stated Secretary Van Sickle. Unfortunately there was not one recreational fishermen that showed up to testify. The people that came to testify did not want any reef developed inshore. A more complete report will be given on this as the inshore artificial reef plan is completed and brought before the Commission for their concurrence.

The feedback that is being received on the Black Bass Management Plan that came out of the Freshwater Fisheries Division is excellent. Secretary Van Sickle received a letter from the Association of Louisiana Bass Clubs basically endorsing the plan in total. There are still a lot of people that are now aware of what the plan does and as it involves change the department does anticipate that they will be hearing from a lot of people that will object to the plan. Right now the department is trying to get the facts out regarding the plan stated, Secretary Van Sickle.

The Governor did declare a disaster as the results of the freeze. The parishes in the coastal zones including Cameron and Calcasieu are eligible for their fishermen to receive disaster assistance. As was presented in the department's presentation to the Commission there was not a biological disaster that would warrant shutting down any of the fisheries but fishermen were displaced and they were able to document the economic impacts of the freeze on Louisiana fishermen.

Upon conclusion of Secretary Van Sickle's report Chairman Pol stated that there were a couple of items under other business and called upon Mr. McCall to present his items.

Mr. McCall advised that he had two items that he wanted to present. The Alligator Task Force recommended increasing the two dollar tag fee to four dollars on the alligator which the Commission went along with. Part of this money was to hire extra personnel to assist in the alligator program and Mr. McCall asked for an update on this.


Secretary Van Sickle stated that she was also concerned about this and has made some commitments to the alligator industry that parallel exactly what this Commission intended to do with the money that is raised from the tags. At this point Secretary Van Sickle asked Mr. Johnnie Tarver to come up and explain where the department is in the hiring process for the alligator program coordinator and the two other position that were authorized to be filled.

Mr. Johnnie Tarver explained that it was decided earlier that the first thing to do was to hire the coordinator then let him sit in on the interviews for hiring the rest of the personnel. A list (probational) was called for from Civil Service several months ago, people were interviewed (three showed up), a recommendation was

public hearing this evening and the other two that are scheduled later for people to express their opinions and make appropriate comments on the proposal. Mr. Bateman urged the Commissioner to take time and review the proposal because it did represent a drastic change in terms of hunting seasons on a huge piece of public land (520,000 acres) that deserves some attention.

Chairman Pol announced that the Commission will go into Executive Session to discuss litigation over the oyster leases and shell dredging and will reconvene in fifteen minutes. Mr. Jones moved that the Commission go into Executive Session, seconded by Mr. McCall and passed unanimously. The Commission went into Executive Session at this time.

Chairman Pol reconvened the February 1, 1990, Commission meeting in Lake Charles, LA and stated that he would accept a motion for adjournment. There being no other business Mr. Jenkins made a motion for adjournment of the February 1, 1990, Commission meeting and it was seconded by Dr. Hines. Motion passed unanimously.

  
Virginia Van Sickle  
Secretary

sb

Commissioner. Mr. Jerry Farrar, Deer Study Leader, gave a very brief review of the report.

Mr. Farrar informed the Commission that what is being proposed today is a major change in the deer hunting season for the Kisatchie National Forest. Mr. Danny Britt, Supervisor, Kisatchie National Forest, and Mr. Mark Webb, Timber Range and Wildlife, Kisatchie National Forest were introduced by Mr. Farrar. This proposal was born out of the joint concerns of both agencies about low deer herds on the Kisatchie National Forest. The proposal will change the fifty six days of deer hunting allowed on a national forest to approximately twenty one days being recommended for the 1990-91 season. Kisatchie has had the same season as the general outside areas, primarily Area 2, for several years and has been opened to free public hunting. The season that is being proposed will bring it more into line with the rest of the public areas in the state (wildlife management areas and wildlife refuges). There has been two key areas in the national forest lands known as the National Red Dirt Wildlife Management Preserve and the National Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve with a conservative season in line somewhat like the wildlife management areas and have provided some insight into the value of conservative seasons in this area. With the dramatic increase in the leasing and posting of lands in the areas of Areas 2, 3 and 4 there has been a dramatic increase of hunter use on the public lands simultaneous with the decline in deer herds. Joint research by the U.S. Forest Service, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Dr. Mark Johnson of the LSU Agriculture Center has demonstrated that deer are being lost on these areas primarily due to noncompliance with bucks only hunting regulations. A shorter deer season on the area is being recommended as a first step of restoring deer herds and maintaining a reasonable hunting opportunity. The objective of this proposal is to increase the deer population on a national forest area to levels that are more consistent than what it is capable of producing. This will provide numbers of deer for both deer hunters and non hunters. This proposal is in direct compliance with a recently completed Deer Task Force to address the problem of low deer herds in this particular area concluded Mr. Farrar.

Chairman Pol asked Mr. Britt to address the Commission on this proposal. Mr. Britt stated that they to believe that deer populations in the forest are less than they could be which causes the Forest Service some concern. They have worked with the Wildlife and Fisheries Department to see if something could be done about this and realize the importance of national forest land in the state, healthy population and a variety of game management. The Forest Service fully supports the department to look at this proposal and see if something could be done concluded Mr. Britt.

Mr. Bateman emphasized that this was for informational purposes only and will have to go through public review like all the rest of the regulations. There will be an opportunity at the



AGENDA  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION  
LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA  
FEBRUARY 1-2, 1990

- ✓ 1. Roll Call
- ✓ 2. Approval of Minutes of January 11-12, 1990
- ✓ 3. Waterfowl Season Report - Hugh Bateman - *yes*
- ✓ 4. Report on Responsive Management Survey - Wade Byrd
- ✓ 5. Spotted Seatrout and Black Drum Commercial Quotas -  
Jerry Clark *Checking.*
6. Extension of Interim Black Drum Measures - Jerry Clark
7. Law Enforcement Monthly Report - Winton Vidrine
8. Annual Report on Two Large Patrol Offshore Boats -  
Winton Vidrine
9. Law Enforcement Migratory Waterfowl Report, 1989-90 Duck  
Season - Winton Vidrine
10. Secretary's Report to the Commission - Virginia Van  
Sickle

OTHER BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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Sickle

OTHER BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION AT THE  
REGULAR MEETING HELD IN LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA, FEBRUARY 1-2, 1990

RESOLUTION

Commercial Harvest of Spotted Seatrout  
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

WHEREAS, Act 889 of the 1988 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature established a quota for the commercial harvest of spotted seatrout in Louisiana at 1.25 million pounds, and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 1987 the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declared the commercial quota year for spotted seatrout to begin on September 1, 1987 and end on August 31, 1988 and on an annual basis thereafter, and

WHEREAS, the Commission is authorized to close finfish seasons using the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S.49:967, and

WHEREAS, Act 889 directs the Commission to close the commercial spotted seatrout fishery when the quota is projected to be reached, and

WHEREAS, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists, based on historical landings and cumulative commercial harvest to date, project that the spotted seatrout quota will be reached during the month of March 1990, and

WHEREAS, updated harvest figures could cause the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists to revise their projection forward, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized and directed to close the commercial fishery for spotted seatrout on the date the quota is projected to be reached as provided in R.S.56:325.3, and

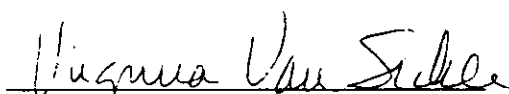
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice to the public shall be given seventy-two hours prior to the effect of the closure, and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the purchase, barter, trade, or sale of spotted seatrout taken from Louisiana waters after the closure is prohibited, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commercial taking or landing of spotted seatrout in Louisiana, whether caught within or without the territorial waters of Louisiana, after the closure is prohibited, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no vessel possessing or fishing any seine, gill net, trammel net, or hoop net shall have a spotted seatrout aboard the vessel, whether caught within or without the waters of the state, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that nothing shall prohibit the possession of fish legally taken prior to the closure.

  
Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary  
La. Dept. Wildlife & Fisheries

  
Warren Pol, Chairman  
Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

RESOLUTION

Adopted by the  
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission  
February 1-2, 1990; Lake Charles, Louisiana

WHEREAS, On October 5, 1989 the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission established interim regulations to slow down the harvest of black drum, and

WHEREAS, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission originally intended for the interim regulations to be operative until permanent measures could be developed and implemented, and

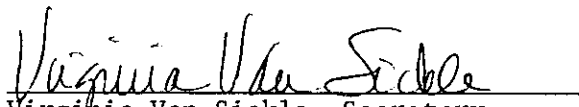
WHEREAS, The existing interim measures will expire on February 9, 1990, under the constraints of the Emergency Provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

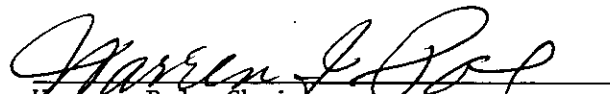
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission by Emergency Declaration does hereby extend until noon April 12, 1990 the interim black drum regulations originally adopted at its October 5, 1989 meeting, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That beginning noon April 12, 1990 the interim black drum regulations originally adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on October 5, 1989 will be reinstated, including a second 300,000 fish quota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to enact an emergency closure, upon seventy-two (72) hours notice, when either quota is met.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, A copy of the Emergency Declaration is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

  
Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary  
La. Dept. Wildlife & Fisheries

  
Warren Pol, Chairman  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

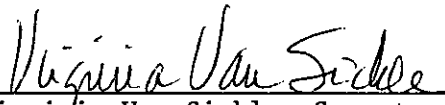
In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S.49:953(B) and 967(D) of the Administrative Procedures Act, and under the authority of R.S.56:326.1 and 326.3, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby finds that preliminary estimates of fishing mortality on black drum if unregulated, would be higher than desirable and accordingly adopts the following emergency rule:


Effective at 12:00 noon on February 9, 1990, there is hereby established for the recreational taking and possession of black drum, within and without state waters, a minimum size limit of 14 inches total length, and for the commercial taking and possession of black drum, within and without state waters, a minimum size limit of 18 inches total length.

There is further hereby established for the commercial taking of black drum an interim quota of 300,000 fish for the period October 12, 1989 through April 12, 1990, and beginning April 12, 1990, an additional quota of 300,000 fish.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to enact an emergency closure, upon seventy-two (72) hours notice, when either quota is met.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission recognizes that black drum landings have increased significantly from 1984-1988 and finds that preliminary estimates of current levels of fishing mortality are higher than desirable. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission acknowledges the importance of stabilizing fishing mortality rates at a level which will maintain an age structure that would ensure a healthy fishery in the future.

  
Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary  
La. Dept. Wildlife & Fisheries

  
Warren Pol, Chairman  
Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

## LOUISIANA WATERFOWL SEASON REPORT

1989-90

### REGULATIONS

Louisiana chose to again split the waterfowl season and for the second time since 1972 hunted under the conventional bag system. The West Zone duck season dates were November 18 to December 4 and December 26 to January 7. The East Zone seasons were November 18 to November 23 and December 15 to January 7, the framework closing date. There was a statewide split season for goose hunting with season dates for snow and white-fronted geese from November 18 to December 4 and December 15 to February 5. A snow goose only season continued for 9 days from February 6-14. For the first time since 1951 the daily bag for snow geese was increased from 5 to 7. Nine additional parishes were converted to steel shot this year. Thirty-eight parishes, that represent an area where 95% of the annual waterfowl harvest occurs, are currently steel shot zones.

### WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

Spring and summer precipitation were well above normal with greater than 12 inches above average recorded through August. Waterfowl habitat conditions in coastal marshes were good with abundant food plants, particularly submergents, and water levels near normal by November. Below average rainfall from the September/mid-December period was evident in the more important waterfowl wintering sites. Outside of the coastal zone waterfowl habitat was restricted primarily to managed areas until mid-December. Sheet water in the rice belt of southwest Louisiana was abundant by mid-December and by early January in central and northeast Louisiana. Freezing of many wetlands in northern sections occurred December 15-17 with a hard freeze throughout the state December 22-26. December 1989 was the coldest December on record, with a statewide average temperature

of 42°F, 10° below normal. Significant changes in waterfowl distribution were noted during these 2 freeze-ups. Post-season habitat conditions have been excellent with wetland acreage abundant and waterfowl highly dispersed.

#### WATERFOWL POPULATIONS AND HUNTING SEASONS

Waterfowl populations estimates recorded on each of the coastal zone surveys this winter were all above the 5 year averages. Dry habitat conditions early in the season and the late December freeze, both in Louisiana and the other states of the lower Mississippi Flyway, favored additional migrations into coastal marshes.

Hunting success along the coast was much improved this winter with a maximum bag of 3 ducks common through both splits. Waterfowl were abundant and rather evenly dispersed in favorable habitat conditions. Gadwall, green-winged teal and mallard were most common in the bag. Harvest information from the past 2 seasons were collected from several private, commercial and federal areas in the coastal zone. The combined total duck harvest for these areas this year was 8,060, a 17% increase. Hunter efforts continued to fall as 3,170 participants were recorded in 1989-90 and 3,550 in 1988-89, an 11% reduction. Success rates from these areas, which are premier hunting locations, was excellent and averaged 2.5 ducks/hunter effort.

The East Zone encompasses most of north Louisiana, Catahoula Lake and southeastern coastal marshes. Lack of adequate rain in north and central Louisiana limited waterfowl habitat to natural wetlands and managed areas until late December. A trend noted last year continued, whereby many landowners who traditionally had pumped water in such dry years chose to wait for rainfall to fill areas, further restricting wetlands. Hunting success was good in these limited wetlands, however hunter participation was reduced. Hunter efforts were

further reduced because of freeze-ups on opening weekend of the second split and during the 5 days of hard freeze from December 22-26. A reduced harvest is anticipated from northern sectors of the state.

Excessive summer rains delayed the annual summer drawdown of Catahoula Lake one month and reduced production of duck foods. The Lake's water level was favorable for dabbling ducks during the entire season for the second consecutive year. The 380,000 ducks recorded on the Lake in mid-December was well above the 5 year average. The recent trend of high use by canvasbacks continued with a peak population of 50,000 in mid-December. Hunting success was good with mallard, pintail and green-winged teal most common in the bag. Hunter participation continued to be low, however it was comparable to last year. Unfortunately, conditions for lead poisoning were also enhanced with the stable, relatively low water levels of this past season. Waterfowl losses were higher than they had been in the past 10 years and were estimated to be 8-10,000, primarily mallards and pintails.

Waterfowl bag checks on 11 WMAs, all in the East Zone and on Catahoula Lake, showed good hunting success. Total efforts were 1,016 taking 1,760 ducks with an average success rate of 1.7 ducks/effort. Success rates varied from 2.4 at Catahoula Lake and 2.2 at Manchac WMA to less than one at Boeuf WMA. Considering that mallards were the most common duck in the bag, there were many successful hunters.

Waterfowl hunting, particularly in the coastal zone, was improved during the 1989-90 season. Good habitat conditions and a severe winter were conducive to high waterfowl use of our state. The return to the traditional one-half hour before sunrise shooting encouraged many individuals to remain in the sport. I anticipate a moderate harvest increase with a comparable number of duck stamps purchased.



**WATERFOWL HARVEST  
1989-90 COMPARED TO 1988-89**

1989-90				1988-89			% CHANGE FROM 1989-90 TO 1988-89		
AREA	EFFORTS	HARVEST	SUCCESS	TOP 2 DUCKS	EFFORTS	HARVEST	SUCCESS	EFFORTS	HARVEST
			RATE	IN BAG			RATE		
Sabine NWR	1,018	2,460	2.4	Gadwall, GWT	1,219	2,198	1.8	-16%	+11%
Lacassine NWR	400	1,000	2.5	Mallard, BWT	734	1,496	2.0	-46%	-33%
Commercial Club (Cameron Parish)	756	2,233	2.9	GWT, Gadwall	632	1,137	1.8	+16%	+49%
Private Club (Calcasieu Parish)	245	657	2.7	Wigeon, Gadwall	257	481	1.9	-5%	+27%
Private Club (Vermillion Parish)	497	1,182	2.4	Mallard, GWT	509	877	1.7	-2%	+26%
Private Club (LaFourche Parish)	251	528	2.1	Ring-Necked, BWT	203	478	2.4	+19%	+9%
TOTALS	3,167	8,060	2.54		3,554	6,667	1.88	-11%	+17%

Commissioner

# Town of Abita Springs, La.

MELISSA ANTHONY  
CLERK  
SECRETARY-TREASURER  
TAX COLLECTOR

CHIEF OF POLICE  
RODNEY "BOO-BOO" STRAIN

ATTORNEY  
WILLIAM "BILL" MAGEE



LYNN "SKINNY" BRIDGES, MAYOR

ALDERMEN  
BRYAN GOWLAND  
(MAYOR PRO-TEM)  
WAYNE SIMONEAUX  
OLGA NEELY  
RICHARD GRANIER  
CAMILLE GREGORY

January 10, 1990

Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
P.O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, La 70898-9000  
Attn: Mr. Kell Mc Innis

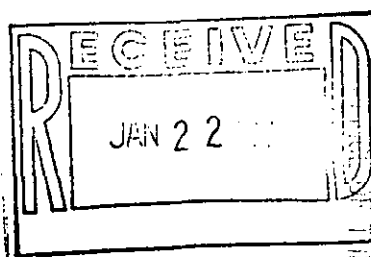
Mr. Mc Innis:

Please find attached a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen requesting that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries deny any dredging within the three mile limit of the Northshore of Lake Ponchatrain.

We are in hopes that this resolution as well as any others on this matter will allow you to know how the public feels and will help to further the research and the decision on this matter.

Sincerely

Melissa Anthony  
Melissa Anthony, Town Clerk



89 JAN 23 12:19

A Resolution introduced by Mr Bryan Gowland, Seconded by Mr. Wayne Simoneaux at the December 19, 1989 meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of Abita Springs, La., asking the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to deny shell dredging operations within the three mile limit of the North shore of Lake Ponchatrain;

Whereas, The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of Abita Springs, Louisiana recognize and appreciate the high value that residents of Lake Ponchatrain's north shore place on the preservation of our natural environment as a contributor to the high quality of life we enjoy;

Whereas, we further recognize that Lake Ponchatrain is an integral part of our natural environment, and the lake is a source of recreational, economic and aesthetic opportunities enjoyed by residents of the North Shore;

Whereas, we have become aware of the deterioration of conditions that exist in the lake that support the delicate ecosystem that sustains life;

Whereas, we understand that shell dredging activities in the 3 (three) mile vicinity of the North Shore may possibly be a contributor to threat deterioration of the Lake's ability to sustain life;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of Abita Springs, Louisiana request that the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries deny to anyone, permits that would allow their dredging of the lake bottom for shells in the 3 (three) mile vicinity of the Lake Ponchatrain North Shore so that we may be assured that every possible step has been taken to assure that Lake Ponchatrain will continue to sustain life and provide our citizens with a source of recreation and economic opportunity.

This resolution having been introduced was adopted by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Abita Springs, Louisiana at its regular meeting of Board of December 19, 1989.

Lynn D. Bridges  
Lynn D. Bridges, Mayor

Bryan M. Gowland  
Mr. Bryan Gowland, Alderman

Wayne A. Simoneaux  
Mr. Wayne Simoneaux, Alderman

Dick Granier  
Mr. "Dick" Granier

Melissa Anthony  
Melissa Anthony, Town Clerk

Olga Neely  
Mrs. Olga Neely, Alderwoman

Camille Gregory  
Mr. Camille Gregory



Commissioner

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE  
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
POST OFFICE BOX 98000  
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898  
PHONE (504) 765-2800

BUDDY ROEMER  
GOVERNOR

January 23, 1990

Chris Katzman  
Staff Attorney  
Office of the Senate  
P. O. Box 94183  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

RE: Administrative Procedure Act

Chris:

This is a follow-up to my letter of December 7, 1989 and it contains some supplemental comments relative to ways in which the APA might be amended while at the same time still providing fundamental due process guarantees. My additional recommendations are as follows:

1. Extending the effective life of certain department Declarations of Emergency (which set seasons) beyond 120 days. This comment may be one that is unique to this department. The department sets certain seasons every year such as webless migratory game bird hunting season, trapping season, fall shrimp season, offshore shrimp season, and oyster season. For 1989, the length of these seasons were as follows:

<u>Seasons</u>	<u>Days</u>
Offshore Shrimp Season	*255
Fall Shrimp Season	133
Oyster Season	208
Webless Migratory Game Bird Hunting Season	177
Trapping Season	116

Ms. Chris Katzman  
January 23, 1990  
Page 2

\*One section is still open. May last 300 days.

Recognizing that these seasons must be set on rather short notice based upon the most recent biological and technical data, the Legislature has already seen fit to specifically authorize the Commission to use a Declaration of Emergency when setting these seasons. R.S. 49:967D.

Further recognizing that these seasons are set only after extensive public hearing and comment, the Legislature has seen fit to exempt these season settings from Oversight. Id.

As you know, a Declaration of Emergency can only be effective for a maximum of 120 days. Unfortunately, although these seasons always last less than a year, some do extend beyond 120 days. Thus as it presently stands, we are required to follow-up our Declaration of Emergency with standard rulemaking even though a particular season might last only 121 days!

Thus, my request is, for those Declarations of Emergency setting the above seasons and only the above seasons, that the emergency rule have an effective life equal to the length of the season. We feel that this is reasonable and would eliminate a large amount of unnecessary paper work.

This request would simply be a logical extension of the two (2) exemptions that the Legislature has already granted our commission.

If your proposed author(s) feel that this is a worthwhile request, please advise and I can easily amend 967D to add the needed language to accomplish this.

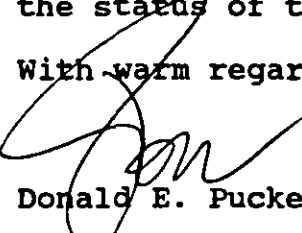
2. Minimum notice for Oversight Hearings. Presently, there is no requirement for the Oversight Committee to give any reasonable notice to the agency prior to the Oversight Hearing. There have been instances wherein this department has been given one day's notice prior to an Oversight Hearing by a telephone call. The most recent example occurred in the week between Christmas and New Years where staff absences due to the holidays are not uncommon. In the past, this short notice has resulted in an absence of knowledgeable staff persons at the oversight hearings to address the committee -sometimes resulting in rejection of the rule.

Ms. Chris Katzman  
January 23, 1990  
Page 3

There are many requirements imposed upon the rulemaking agencies. By the same token, I believe that fairness dictates a minimum notice time prior to an Oversight Hearing (preferably at least five (5) days) and preferably in writing.

I hope that you and your proposed authors will consider these comments along with those in my December 7 letter as possible amendments to the APA. Please contact me if I can provide you with further information or assistance. I would appreciate it if you would contact me at some point in the future to advise us on the status of this review. Thank you.

With warm regards,



Donald E. Puckett

cc: Virginia Van Sickle  
Kell McInnis  
Bettsie Baker  
Jerry Clark  
Division Chiefs

## AGENDA FOR COMMISSION MEETING

On Thursday, February 1st, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will hold its regular monthly meeting at the Lake Charles Civil Center, 900 Lakeshore Drive at 2:00 P.M. At 7:00 P.M. the Commission will hold its first of three public hearings on the 1990-91 hunting seasons at the same location.

On Friday, February 2nd, 1990 the Commission meeting will be continued at the Lake Charles Civic Center at 9:00 A.M.

The following items will be on the agenda:

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of January 11-12, 1990
3. Waterfowl Season Report
4. Report on Responsive Management Survey
5. Spotted Seatrout and Black Drum Commercial Quotas
6. Extension of Interim Black Drum Measures
7. Law Enforcement Monthly Report
8. Annual Report on Two Large Patrol Offshore Boats
9. Migratory Waterfowl Report, 1989-90 Duck Season
10. Secretary's Report to the Commission

OTHER BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

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OTHER BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS:



January 23, 1990

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members of Commission  
FROM: Virginia Van Sickle  
RE: February Board Meeting

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On Friday, February 2nd, 1990, the regular Commission meeting will be continued at the same location at 9:00 AM.

The following will be on the agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes of January 11-12, 1989

HUGH BATEMAN

2. Waterfowl Season Report

WADE BYRD

3. Report on Responsive Management Survey

JERRY CLARK

4. Spotted Seatrout Commercial Quota
5. Reef Fish Rules
6. Extension of Interim Black Drum Measures

Page 2  
January 22, 1990

WINTON VIDRINE

7. Law Enforcement Monthly Report
8. Annual Report on Two Large Offshore Boats
9. Migratory Report

VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE

10. Secretary's Report to the Commission

OTHER BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

VVS:sb

C: Don Puckett  
Kell McInnis  
Bettsie Baker  
Jerry Clark  
John Medica  
Division Chiefs



VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE  
SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
POST OFFICE BOX 98000  
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70898  
PHONE (504) 765-2800

BUDDY ROEMER  
GOVERNOR

January 23, 1990

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FROM: Virginia Van Sickles *VVS*  
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Page 2  
January 22, 1990

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VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE

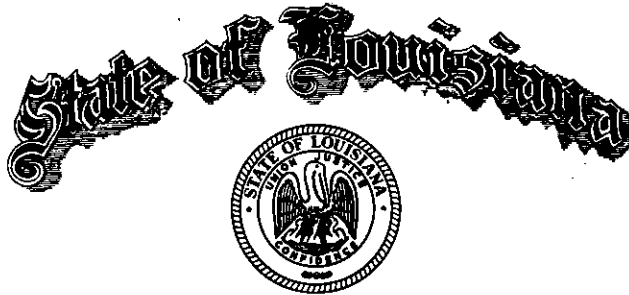
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OTHER BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

VVS:sb

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**BUDDY ROEMER**  
GOVERNOR

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Virginia Van Sickle  
Secretary

FROM: Jerry Clark  
Assistant Secretary  
Office of Fisheries

RE: Commission Agenda for February 1-2, 1990

DATE: January 22, 1990

Please include the following items on the above referenced agenda:

Spotted Seatrout Commercial Quota  
Reef Fish Rules  
Extension of Interim Black Drum Measures

KJF/lrm

c: W.S. "Corky" Perret  
Karen Foote



VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE  
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BUDDY ROEMER  
GOVERNOR

January 12, 1990

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Deputy Secretary, Assistant Secretary Office of  
Fisheries, Undersecretary and Office of Wildlife Chiefs

FROM: Virginia Van Sickle *VVS*

RE: Commission Meeting Agenda - February 1-2, 1990

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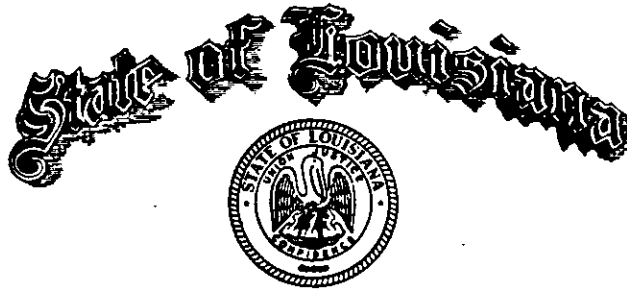
Resolutions and Notices of Intent should be included with the list of items to be placed on the agenda.

Thank you for your cooperation!

VVS/sb

C: Don Puckett  
Bob Dennie

*Inf Case Report*  
*Annual*  
*(2) ~~6 MONTH~~ Report on The Two Large*  
*OFFSHORE BOATS*  
*(3) migratory Report.*



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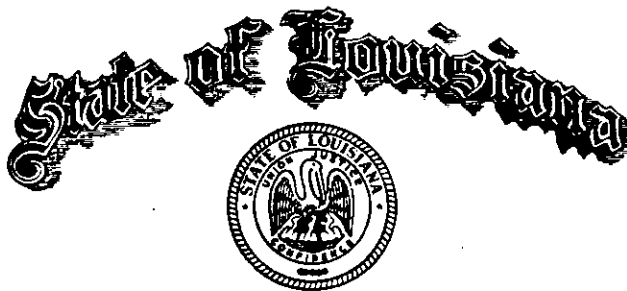
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VVS/sb

C: Don Puckett  
Bob Dennie

*We have nothing to include*  
*L. J. Turner*



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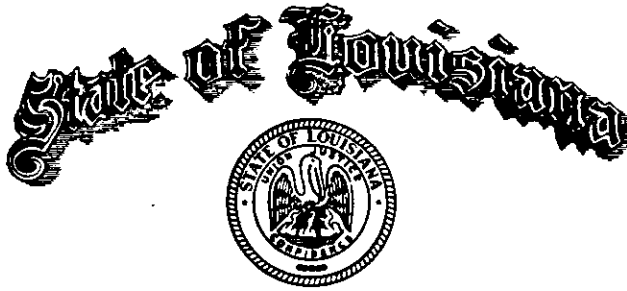
*No items for the agenda are planned.*

*[Signature]*

RECEIVED  
LA. DEPARTMENT OF  
WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

JAN 12 90  
FUR & REFUGE.  
BATON ROUGE





VIRGINIA VAN SICKLE  
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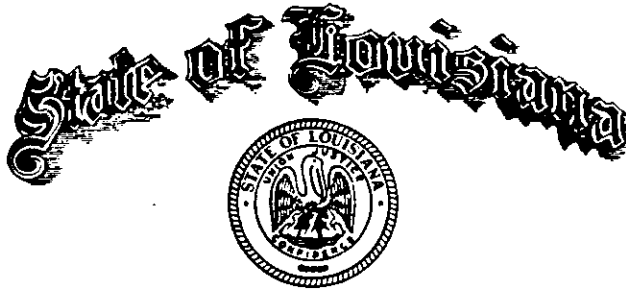
C: Don Puckett  
Bob Dennie

*Update on removal provisions?*

*(or by letter - Ask Va)*

*Sharyn*

*Paula - my last conversation w/  
Va - he said this would not be  
separate agenda items but would be  
part of secretary's report.*



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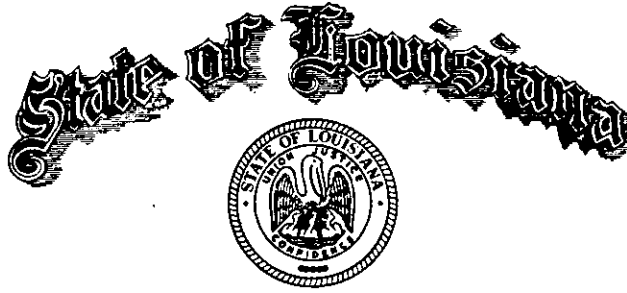
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VVS/sb

C: Don Puckett  
Bob Dennie

*~~Carla~~*

*1/17*  
*J & E*  
*Nothing*



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Bob Dennie

4

## RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT PILOT SURVEY RESULTS

- 1,574 households participated in statewide general population telephone survey. The results were reviewed by LSU statistician Dr. Vernon Wright. The general population survey achieved a 95 percent confidence limit with margins of error ranging from 1.5 to 2.6 percent.
  - Black responses were 16 percent. They were weighted to conform to known census data.
- 80 percent of Louisianans are served directly by Wildlife and Fisheries. That is they hunt, fish, own a boat, commercial fish or trap and/or actively engage in non-consumptive wildlife activities.
- Including in-direct non-consumptive users, that total goes up to 94 percent.
- 31 percent of Louisianans consider themselves hunters.
  - 87 percent male.
  - 13 percent female.
- 60 percent of Louisianans consider themselves fishermen.
  - 67 percent male.
  - 33 percent female.
- 12 percent of Louisianans derive at least part of their income from use of wildlife, commercial fishing, trapping, etc.
  - 58 percent male.
  - 42 percent female.
- 48 percent of Louisianans actively engage in non-consumptive wildlife activities.
  - 55 percent male.
  - 45 percent female.
  - 38 percent hunt.
  - 68 percent fish.
- 22 percent of Louisianans visited another state to hunt, fish or view wildlife in the past 12 months.
- Over 90 percent of Louisianans feel Wildlife and Fisheries should increase a number of their activities even though such increases would result in increased expenditures.
- 66 percent of the population rated the overall performance of Wildlife and Fisheries as favorable (6-10 on a 1-10 scale).
  - Unfavorable (1-4) rating was only 5 percent.
  - 18 percent had no opinion.

# APPROVAL RATING FOR ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES

	Exist Sales Tax	Exist Fuel Tax	WMA User Fee	Hunt Equip. Tax	Sales Tax Hike	Rec. Lic. Fees	Bottle Tax	Comm. Lic. Fees	Real Est. Tax	Out. Equip. Tax
General	76	71	70	65	65	60	59	59	59	51
Hunters	82	72	69	65	70	55	66	61	64	53
Fishermen	78	71	70	66	68	58	62	60	60	52
Boat Own.	79	69	73	66	67	56	62	62	59	51
Commercial	72	67	65	68	66	58	65	52	58	55
Non-Consump.	80	73	74	70	69	64	65	61	62	52
Male	79	72	71	68	69	61	63	63	63	54
Female	72	68	69	63	61	59	54	53	54	48
Black	71	67	62	61	65	48	49	56	57	53
White	78	71	73	67	66	62	62	60	59	51

# LDWF PROGRAM INTERESTS

	G E N E R L	H U N T	F I S H	B O A T S	C O M M	M A L E	F E M A L E	B L A C K	W H I T E	N O N - C O N
Boating Saf.	96	96	96	96	94	95	95	91	96	95
Wildlife Ed.	95	96	96	96	94	95	95	92	96	96
Boat Law Enf.	94	94	95	96	94	95	94	91	95	94
Wildlife Enf.	94	94	95	95	92	94	93	89	95	95
End. Spec. Mgt.	93	93	93	95	92	92	93	87	95	93
Hiking Trails	93	92	94	92	90	91	93	87	94	94
Magazine	91	93	92	93	91	92	89	90	91	93
Scenic Streams	90	92	92	94	88	92	89	82	94	93
Land Acq.	89	92	91	92	91	91	87	86	90	91
Att. Wildlife	86	87	88	88	82	88	84	80	88	89
Stock Fish	84	91	90	91	88	89	80	70	90	89
Fishing Access	83	87	88	89	88	87	78	78	85	86
Boat Launches	80	87	86	85	86	86	74	79	81	82
Comm. Fish Mgt.	78	78	80	78	81	79	78	73	79	80
Urban Fishing	75	82	81	80	81	82	68	70	78	78
Shooting Ranges	72	86	79	81	73	82	60	62	77	74
Saltwater Fish	70	78	76	77	79	78	61	60	74	75
Small Game Hunt	66	88	74	75	71	77	53	63	67	68
Waterfowl Hunt	62	85	70	72	70	71	52	52	66	67
Big Game Hunt	58	82	66	68	70	69	45	50	61	60
Trophy Fish	58	76	68	68	62	68	45	49	60	60

## FUNDING SOURCES

### LISTED BY PERCENTAGE MODERATELY OR STRONGLY SUPPORTING.

Dedication of existing general sales tax	76
Dedication of existing fuel tax	71
Entrance fees to WMAs	70
Excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment	65
Increase in general sales tax	65
Recreational license fees hike	60
Bottle Tax	59
Commercial license fees	59
Real estate tax	59
Excise tax on other outdoor equipment	51

### LISTED BY PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS STRONGLY OPPOSING.

Dedication of existing general sales tax	12
Entrance fees to WMAs	13
Dedication of portion of existing fuel tax	17
Commercial license fees	19
Excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment	22
Increase in general sales tax	22
Recreational license fees	23
Real estate tax	23
Bottle tax	26
Excise tax or other outdoor equipment	30

## **LDWF PROGRAM RESULTS**

**LISTED BY PERCENTAGE MODERATELY OR STRONGLY SUPPORTING.**

<b>Boating safety education</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Wildlife education</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Boating safety law enforcement</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Enforcement to uphold wildlife laws</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Endangered species management</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Hiking trails and wildlife viewing stations</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Providing written materials like magazine</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Mgt of scenic streams and rare habitats</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Land acquisition</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Info on attracting wildlife</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Stocking fish in public waters</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Public access for fishing (piers, etc.)</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Boat launches</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Commercial fishing management</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Urban fishing</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Shooting ranges</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Saltwater fishing (artificial reefs)</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>Small game hunting</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Waterfowl hunting</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Big game hunting</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Catching trophy fish</b>	<b>58</b>



## FUNDING

1. Date call was made

1:1-6

__	__	-	__	__	-	__	__
Year		Month		Day			

2. Please enter your initials.

1:7-9

__	__	__
----	----	----

3. Enter five digit parish code here.

1:10-14

__	__	__	__	__
----	----	----	----	----

4. Enter the area code and telephone number of number dialed.

1:15-24

__	__	__	-	__	__	__	-	__	__	__	__
----	----	----	---	----	----	----	---	----	----	----	----

5. Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'm calling for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. We would like to ask you a few questions about the environment and wildlife. Your opinions will be used to help shape the direction of our environmental and wildlife efforts for the next two decades.

(SURVEY WILL LAST ABOUT 10-15 MINUTES.)

The person I need to speak to is the person currently living in your household who is 18 years or older who had the most recent birthday. Would that be you or someone else?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1:25

- |    |                                   |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| __ | 1. Self (GOTO QUESTION 13)        |
| __ | 2. Someone else (GOTO QUESTION 7) |
| __ | 3. Don't know all birthdays       |
| __ | 4. Refused (GOTO QUESTION 12)     |

6. Of the ones you do know, who had the most recent birthday?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1:26

- |    |                            |
|----|----------------------------|
| __ | 1. Self (GOTO QUESTION 13) |
| __ | 2. Someone else            |



13. Do YOU PERSONALLY participate in recreational hunting?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1:69

| 31 | 1. yes  
| 69 | 2. no

14. Do YOU PERSONALLY participate in recreational fishing?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1:70

| 60 | 1. yes  
| 40 | 2. no

15. Did YOU PERSONALLY spend time watching, feeding, photographing wildlife or other activities that directly involve enjoyment of non-captive wild animals and fish in the past 12 months?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1:71

| 48 | 1. Yes  
| 52 | 2. No (GOTO QUESTION 17)

16. In the past 12 months, did you take one or more trips or outings, of at least one mile, for the primary purpose of observing, photographing, or feeding wildlife? Do not include trips to zoos, circuses, aquariums, museums or trips for hunting or fishing.

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1:72

| 57 | 1. Yes  
| 43 | 2. No

17. Did YOU PERSONALLY participate in an indirect form of wildlife enjoyment such as watching television programs, reading books, and articles, and observing animals in zoos?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1:73

| 88 | 1. yes  
| 12 | 2. no (GOTO QUESTION 20)

18. Have you seen at least one episode of the Louisiana Conservationist TV Magazine on the public broadcasting station in your area.

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1:74

| 40 | 1. yes  
| 60 | 2. no (GOTO QUESTION 20)

19. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being very good and one being very bad, would you please give me your impression of the show judging from the episodes you have seen. (ENTER ZERO FOR NO OPINION)

1:75-76

10=26  
9=15  
8=32  
7=11  
6=5  
5=4  
4=0  
3=0  
2=1  
1=0

20. Does anyone in this household own one or more boats?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1:77

| 37 | 1. yes  
| 63 | 2. no (GOTO QUESTION 22)

21. Is pleasure boating the major use for any boat that you own, that is, not hunting, fishing or commercial activities.

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1:78

| 44 | 1. yes  
| 56 | 2. no

22. Would you be in favor of an operator's license for boaters?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1:79

| 68 | 1. yes  
| 32 | 2. no

23. In your opinion, should all boat operators be required to attend a boating education class and pass a written test before becoming eligible to drive a boat?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1:80

| 81 | 1. Yes  
| 19 | 2. No

24. Did YOU PERSONALLY participate in commercial fishing, shrimping, crabbing, trapping or alligator hunting in Louisiana in the past 12 months?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:1

|12| 1. yes  
|88| 2. no

25. Did YOU PERSONALLY visit any of the Wildlife Management Areas or Wildlife Refuges managed by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in the past 12 months?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:2

|30| 1. Yes  
|70| 2. No

26. Did YOU PERSONALLY visit another state for the purpose of hunting, fishing or viewing wildlife in the past 12 months?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:3

|22| 1. Yes  
|78| 2. No

27. On a scale of one to 10, with 10 being very good and one being very bad, what is your general opinion of the overall performance of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries? (ENTER ZERO FOR NO OPINION.)

2:4-5

10=14  
9=8  
8=23  
7=13  
6=8  
5=10  
4=2  
3=1  
2=1  
1=1  
0=18

28. On a scale of one to 10, with 10 being very good and one being very bad, how do you rate the performance of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries in the following specific areas? (ENTER ZERO FOR NO OPINION.) (IF RESPONDENT INSISTS THAT THEY HAVE NO OPINION ON ANY WILDLIFE & FISHERIES PROGRAMS, THEN ENTER ZERO FOR THIS AND THE NEXT SIX FOLLOWUP QUESTIONS.)

(ENTER ZERO FOR NO OPINION)

Freshwater Fisheries

2:6-7

10=11

9=6

8=16

7=11

6=7

5=9

4=2

3=2

2=1

1=1

0=34

29. Saltwater Fisheries

(ENTER ZERO FOR NO OPINION)

2:8-9

10=9

9=5

8=12

7=8

6=6

5=9

4=3

3=2

2=1

1=2

0=44

30. Educational Programs

(ENTER ZERO FOR NO OPINION)

2:10-11

10=16

9=8

8=14

7=9

6=5

5=10

4=3

3=3

2=2

1=2

0=29

**31. Law Enforcement**

(ENTER ZERO FOR NO OPINION)

**2:12-13**

10=19

9=8

8=16

7=8

6=6

5=11

4=4

3=3

2=2

1=3

0=21

**32. Game Management (for instance deer, turkeys, waterfowl)**

(ENTER ZERO FOR NO OPINION)

**2:14-15**

10=13

9=11

8=16

7=9

6=6

5=9

4=2

3=2

2=1

1=1

0=31

**33. Conserving fish and wildlife habitat**

(ENTER ZERO FOR NO OPINION)

**2:16-17**

10=16

9=10

8=13

7=11

6=6

5=10

4=3

3=3

2=2

1=2

0=24

**34. Preserving and managing scenic rivers**  
(ENTER ZERO FOR NO OPINION)

2:18-19

10=9  
9=6  
8=11  
7=10  
6=7  
5=11  
4=5  
3=4  
2=3  
1=5  
0=30

**35. Endangered Species Management**  
(ENTER ZERO FOR NO OPINION)

2:20-21

10=14  
9=9  
8=13  
7=10  
6=5  
5=10  
4=4  
3=2  
2=1  
1=2  
0=29

**36. The next four questions relate to your attitudes about the use of animals.**

For example, would you strongly support, moderately support, moderately oppose, strongly oppose or neither support nor oppose recreational fishing.

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:22

71	1. Strongly Support
15	2. Moderately Support
3	3. Moderately Oppose
5	4. Strongly Oppose
4	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
2	6. No Opinion



37. What about recreational hunting?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:23

52	1. Strongly Support
22	2. Moderately Support
9	3. Moderately Oppose
12	4. Strongly Oppose
3	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
2	6. No Opinion

38. What about the trapping of animals for their fur or hides?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:24

16	1. Strongly Support
16	2. Moderately Support
14	3. Moderately Oppose
46	4. Strongly Oppose
5	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
4	6. No Opinion

39. What about commercial fishing, shrimping and crabbing?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:25

56	1. Strongly Support
27	2. Moderately Support
7	3. Moderately Oppose
4	4. Strongly Oppose
4	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
3	6. No Opinion

40. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries uses its money and personnel to support a wide variety of programs. Realizing that to increase any of these programs will require additional expenditures, would you please tell me your support for the following programs.  
For example, would you strongly support, moderately support, moderately oppose, strongly oppose or neither support nor oppose increasing opportunities for catching trophy size fish?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:26

36	1. Strongly support
22	2. Moderately support
10	3. Moderately oppose
14	4. Strongly oppose
10	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
8	6. No opinion

41. How about increased stocking of fish in public waters?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:27

70	1. Strongly support
14	2. Moderately support
4	3. Moderately oppose
6	4. Strongly oppose
3	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
3	6. No opinion

42. How about improving and increasing public access areas for fishing. For example, by purchasing areas alongside streams and rivers for people to fish from and/or building fishing piers.

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:28

67	1. Strongly support
16	2. Moderately support
5	3. Moderately oppose
6	4. Strongly oppose
3	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
2	6. No opinion

43. How about increasing opportunities for fishing in urban areas?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:29

53	1. Strongly support
22	2. Moderately support
7	3. Moderately oppose
8	4. Strongly oppose
4	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
5	6. No opinion

44. How about increasing saltwater fishing opportunities by providing artificial reefs? (ARTIFICIAL REEFS ARE UNDERWATER STRUCTURES THAT ATTRACT FISH.)

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:30

53	1. Strongly support
17	2. Moderately support
6	3. Moderately oppose
9	4. Strongly oppose
6	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
8	6. No opinion

45. What about increasing opportunities for big game hunting in Louisiana

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:31

- |    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 40 | 1. Strongly support           |
| 18 | 2. Moderately support         |
| 12 | 3. Moderately oppose          |
| 20 | 4. Strongly oppose            |
| 6  | 5. Neither Support nor Oppose |
| 5  | 6. No opinion                 |

46. How about increasing opportunities for hunting small game such as rabbits, squirrels, quail or doves?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:32

- |    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 45 | 1. Strongly support           |
| 21 | 2. Moderately support         |
| 11 | 3. Moderately oppose          |
| 15 | 4. Strongly oppose            |
| 5  | 5. Neither Support nor Oppose |
| 4  | 6. No opinion                 |

47. How about increasing opportunities for waterfowl hunting?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:33

- |    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 42 | 1. Strongly support           |
| 20 | 2. Moderately support         |
| 10 | 3. Moderately oppose          |
| 17 | 4. Strongly oppose            |
| 5  | 5. Neither Support nor Oppose |
| 5  | 6. No opinion                 |

48. How about increasing the number of shooting ranges available to the public?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:34

- |    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 54 | 1. Strongly support           |
| 18 | 2. Moderately support         |
| 7  | 3. Moderately oppose          |
| 13 | 4. Strongly oppose            |
| 4  | 5. Neither Support nor Oppose |
| 4  | 6. No opinion                 |

49. What about increasing information made available to the public on animals that are not hunted or fished? For example, on how to attract wildlife and where to see them.

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:35

- |    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 72 | 1. Strongly support           |
| 14 | 2. Moderately support         |
| 3  | 3. Moderately oppose          |
| 4  | 4. Strongly oppose            |
| 3  | 5. Neither Support nor Oppose |
| 4  | 6. No opinion                 |

50. How about increasing programs to provide opportunities for watching wildlife such as nature trails and viewing stations?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:36

- |    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 80 | 1. Strongly support           |
| 13 | 2. Moderately support         |
| 2  | 3. Moderately oppose          |
| 3  | 4. Strongly oppose            |
| 1  | 5. Neither Support nor Oppose |
| 2  | 6. No opinion                 |

51. What about increasing safety education programs for boaters.

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:37

- |    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 88 | 1. Strongly support           |
| 8  | 2. Moderately support         |
| 1  | 3. Moderately oppose          |
| 2  | 4. Strongly oppose            |
| 1  | 5. Neither Support nor Oppose |
| 1  | 6. No opinion                 |

52. How about providing increased numbers of boat launching sites?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:38

- |    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| 59 | 1. Strongly support           |
| 21 | 2. Moderately support         |
| 6  | 3. Moderately oppose          |
| 5  | 4. Strongly oppose            |
| 5  | 5. Neither Support nor Oppose |
| 4  | 6. No opinion                 |

53. How about increasing law enforcement activities on Louisiana waterways aimed at reducing the number of boating accidents?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:39

88	1. Strongly support
6	2. Moderately support
1	3. Moderately oppose
2	4. Strongly oppose
1	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
1	6. No opinion

54. How about increased management of endangered and threatened species of animals?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:40

84	1. Strongly support
9	2. Moderately support
2	3. Moderately oppose
2	4. Strongly oppose
1	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
2	6. No opinion

55. How about increased emphasis on educating and informing the public about wildlife?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:41

85	1. Strongly support
10	2. Moderately support
1	3. Moderately oppose
2	4. Strongly oppose
1	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
2	6. No Opinion

56. What about increased emphasis on management of wildlife for commercial purposes such as commercial fishing and trapping?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:42

58	1. Strongly support
20	2. Moderately support
6	3. Moderately oppose
6	4. Strongly oppose
5	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
5	6. No Opinion

57. What about providing increased written materials, such as a magazine, about wildlife?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:43

72	1. Strongly support
19	2. Moderately support
3	3. Moderately oppose
2	4. Strongly oppose
2	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
2	6. No opinion

58. How about acquiring and protecting more land for outdoor recreational activities?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:44

74	1. Strongly support
15	2. Moderately support
3	3. Moderately oppose
4	4. Strongly oppose
2	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
2	6. No opinion

59. How about increased law enforcement to uphold wildlife laws and regulations?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:45

84	1. Strongly support
10	2. Moderately support
1	3. Moderately oppose
3	4. Strongly oppose
1	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
1	6. No opinion

60. What about increased conservation and management of scenic streams and other rare habitats?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:46

80	1. Strongly support
10	2. Moderately support
2	3. Moderately oppose
2	4. Strongly oppose
2	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
3	6. No opinion

61. Please indicate your support for the following sources of increased funding dedicated to operating the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

That is, do you strongly support, moderately support, moderately oppose, strongly oppose, or neither support nor oppose the following new sources of revenues to help fund the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

...Increased license fees for recreational hunters and fishermen?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:47

40	1. Strongly Support
20	2. Moderately Support
9	3. Moderately Oppose
23	4. Strongly Oppose
4	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
4	6. Have no opinion

62. ...Increased license fees for commercial fishermen, shrimpers, crabbers and trappers?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:48

41	1. Strongly Support
18	2. Moderately Support
10	3. Moderately Oppose
19	4. Strongly Oppose
7	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
6	6. Have no opinion

63. ...Entrance fees to wildlife management areas and refuges?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:49

45	1. Strongly Support
25	2. Moderately Support
9	3. Moderately Oppose
13	4. Strongly Oppose
4	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
4	6. Have no opinion

64. ...A small tax (such as 1 - 5%) on hunting and fishing equipment?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:50

43	1. Strongly Support
22	2. Moderately Support
7	3. Moderately Oppose
22	4. Strongly Oppose
3	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
3	6. Have no opinion

65. ...A similar tax on wildlife observation equipment and other outdoor supplies such as binoculars, cameras, wildlife field guide birdseed and camping equipment?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:51

31	1. Strongly Support
20	2. Moderately Support
12	3. Moderately Oppose
30	4. Strongly Oppose
4	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
3	6. Have no opinion

66. ...A special tax on the sale of real estate to offset the loss of habitat from commercial and real estate development?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:52

40	1. Strongly Support
19	2. Moderately Support
8	3. Moderately Oppose
23	4. Strongly Oppose
4	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
5	6. Have no opinion

67. ...A small increase in state general sales tax dedicated to fish and wildlife. For example, one penny on every five dollars. (CURRENT STATE SALES TAX IS 4 PERCENT. THIS WOULD BE AN ADDITIONAL 1/5TH OF ONE PERCENT, THEREBY ONE PENNY ON EVERY FIVE DOLLARS. THIS AMOUNT EQUALS THE AMOUNT OF MONEY WE CURRENTLY COLLECT IN SALE TAXES ON THE SALE OF HUNTING AND FISHING EQUIPMENT.)

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:53

45	1. Strongly Support
20	2. Moderately Support
8	3. Moderately Oppose
22	4. Strongly Oppose
2	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
2	6. Have no opinion

68. ...The dedication of a similar SMALL portion of the EXISTING state sales tax to fish and wildlife.

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:54

52	1. Strongly Support
24	2. Moderately Support
6	3. Moderately Oppose
12	4. Strongly Oppose
2	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
4	6. Have no opinion



69. ...An increase in state taxes on soft drinks and alcoholic beverages dedicated to fish and wildlife programs. This is sometimes referred to as a bottle tax.

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:55

41	1. Strongly Support
18	2. Moderately Support
10	3. Moderately Oppose
26	4. Strongly Oppose
2	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
3	6. Have no opinion

70. ...Dedication of the portion of the fuel tax that is associated with fuel purchased for motorboats to the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:56

50	1. Strongly Support
21	2. Moderately Support
7	3. Moderately Oppose
17	4. Strongly Oppose
3	5. Neither Support nor Oppose
3	6. Have no opinion

71. The final few questions are background information to help in analyzing the results of our survey. First, how many years have you lived in Louisiana?

2:57-59

|\_|\_|\_|

72. How many persons live at this household?

2:60-61

|\_|\_|

73. How many of these are 18 years old or older?

2:62-63

|\_|\_|

74. Are you a registered voter in Louisiana?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:64

86	1. Yes
14	2. No

75. What race or ethnic background do you consider yourself?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:65

- |    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 28 | 1. Black           |
| 1  | 2. Hispanic        |
| 69 | 3. White           |
| 1  | 4. American Indian |
|    | 5. Asian/Pacific   |
|    | 6. Don't know      |
| 1  | 7. Refused         |

76. What is your age?

(IF HESITANT, ASK YEAR BORN AND CALCULATE AGE  
DON'T KNOW OR REFUSED IS CODED 000)

2:66-68

|\_|\_|\_|

77. What is the highest grade level you have completed in school?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:69

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 18 | 1. Grades 1 thru 11 but no high school diploma |
| 37 | 2. High school graduate                        |
| 22 | 3. Some college, trade or business school      |
| 14 | 4. College graduate                            |
| 8  | 5. Graduate or professional degree             |
|    | 6. Don't know                                  |
|    | 7. Refused                                     |

78. (IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO TELL THE SEX OF THE RESPONDENT, THEN ASK:)  
Are you a male or female?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:70

- |    |            |
|----|------------|
| 53 | 1. Male    |
| 47 | 2. Female  |
|    | 3. Refused |

79. Finally, which of these broad categories best describes your total household income for all sources during 1988?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:71

- |    |                         |
|----|-------------------------|
| 21 | 1. Less than \$15,000   |
| 27 | 2. \$15,000 to \$29,000 |
| 27 | 3. \$30,000 to \$49,000 |
| 14 | 4. \$50,000 or more     |
| 5  | 5. Don't know           |
| 6  | 6. Refused              |

80. That's the end of the questionnaire.  
Thank you very much for your time and  
cooperation.

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:72

- ☐ 1. Save answers (GOTO QUESTION 82)  
☐ 2. Erase answers

81. Are you sure you want to  
erase these answers?

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:73

- ☐ 1. Yes, erase these answers  
☐ 2. No, do not erase these answers (GOTO QUESTION 80)

82. THE END

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

2:74

- ☐ 1. PUSH RETURN

DRAFT

JANUARY 29, 1990

**PROPOSED CHANGE IN DEER HUNTING REGULATIONS  
FOR KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST, LOUISIANA**

Jerry Farrar, Czerny Newland, Clyde Vienne  
LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Joe Hogan, Mary May, Frances Rothwein  
U.S.D.A. FOREST SERVICE

Mark K. Johnson  
SCHOOL OF FORESTRY, WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES  
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
AGRICULTURAL CENTER

The purpose of this document is to propose and explain a change in the deer hunting season permitted on Kisatchie National Forest. Recent evidence shows that deer populations are too low; expected increases in hunter use will likely cause even further severe reductions in deer population levels. The present problem has resulted from significant noncompliance with existing bucks-only regulations. To restore these deer populations, a reduction in the deer season from about 60 days to 21 days or less is proposed for the Kisatchie National Forest.

The Kisatchie National Forest, encompassing 600,000 acres in

North and West Central Louisiana, is administered by the United States Forest Service and constitutes the largest tract of publicly owned land still available for deer hunting in Louisiana, free of charge. The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, through its Wildlife Management Area program, presently owns or has under lease 900,000 acres of management area lands scattered throughout the State which also provide hunters with a place to hunt deer without charge. Combined acreage administered by the two public agencies comprise 10 percent of the State's commercial forest lands.

The importance of these publicly administered lands to deer hunters has increased dramatically in recent years because much of the State's forested lands are being posted by landowners or leasees, most of which is for deer hunting. Only 20 percent of the State's 14 million acres of forest lands is currently estimated to be open to free public hunting. Even less will be available in the future, and use of Kisatchie National Forest by deer hunters is increasing rapidly because many deer hunters are being excluded from previously open lands. Increased use of Kisatchie National

Forest by deer hunters requires a reevaluation of the manner in which the deer resource is managed.

Historically, Louisiana's deer hunting regulations for Wildlife Management Areas have emphasized either-sex harvest during a relatively short season as the proper means of providing maximum recreation while regulating the harvest and conserving the deer population. On the other hand, deer hunters who hunt on privately owned and leased lands have traditionally preferred long, predominately bucks-only hunting regulations for their club lands. Long bucks-only deer hunting seasons are possible on private deer clubs because members force compliance with hunting regulations upon their fellow hunters. Hunters become protective of their deer herds and do not usually overharvest does on their own lands. This constraint apparently does not apply to the deer herds found on Kisatchie National Forest where the herd is available to everyone and individual hunters do not feel responsible for its protection.

In recent years, Kisatchie National Forest, like all of the privately owned land in North Central Louisiana, has been allowed

deer hunting seasons approaching 60 days in length. However, National Red Dirt and Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserves, which comprise 12 percent of Kisatchie National Forest, have had much shorter deer seasons.

Cooperative research on the impact of harvest on deer populations on Red Dirt has been conducted by LSU Agricultural Center, the U.S.D.A. Forest Service and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries during the past 4 years. Census data indicate that the deer population on Red Dirt is higher than on most other Kisatchie National Forest lands, but low when compared to herds on carefully controlled private lands. Few does were legally harvested during 1985-1988 seasons, and the population should have increased. But, it remained stable. Findings of this research show that most does were being taken illegally during the bucks-only season segments which preceded the either-sex days, and relatively few doe deer were harvested on either-sex days. A similar trend is apparent for the Catahoula Preserve.

Either-sex hunting days are critical to proper deer management; however, does must be taken only on designated days!

We conclude that the unacceptably low deer population on Kisatchie is a result of noncompliance with bucks-only regulations. Because the level of illegal harvest is excessive on a portion of the Kisatchie National Forest where hunts are supervised, it is obvious that overharvest of deer has occurred on the rest of Kisatchie National Forest where hunters are not supervised.

Illegal activities of some hunters are depriving current and future generations of their wildlife resources. Our stewardship responsibilities require that actions be taken to reverse this trend. The deer herds on these public lands, where hunter numbers are not controlled by club membership or by invitation, are not able to sustain the harvest incurred in recent years and other annual losses. As these factors have increased beyond the ability of the herds to sustain themselves, numbers of deer have declined to a point where the range is understocked. Deer herds are now at levels below the carrying capacities of the ranges in many parts



of Kisatchie National Forest.

The shorter deer season on the Red Dirt and Catahoula Preserves has reduced the number of illegal deer taken, resulting in higher deer populations on these areas than on the remainder of Kisatchie National Forest. In view of the above, a first step in the process of restoring the deer herds, while maintaining reasonable hunting opportunities, is to reduce the deer hunting season to 21 days or less on Kisatchie National Forest.

A SEASON FOR 1990-91 WHICH WILL BEGIN RESTORATION OF DEER ON THE

KISATCHIE NATIONAL FOREST

9 days	Nov. 3-11	Still Hunting, Bucks-Only
2 days	Nov. 23-24	Still Hunting, Either-Sex
1 day	Nov. 25	Still Hunting, Bucks-Only
2 days	Dec. 1-2	Muzzleloader, Either-Sex
* 2 days	Dec. 8-9	With or Without Dogs, Either-Sex
* 5 days	Dec. 26-30	With or Without Dogs, Bucks-Only

\* The Vernon and Caney Ranger Districts will remain closed to use of dogs.

RESOLUTION

Adopted by the  
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission  
February 1-2, 1990; Lake Charles, Louisiana

WHEREAS, On October 5, 1989 the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission established interim regulations to slow down the harvest of black drum, and

WHEREAS, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission originally intended for the interim regulations to be operative until permanent measures could be developed and implemented, and

WHEREAS, The existing interim measures will expire on February 9, 1990, under the constraints of the Emergency Provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission by Emergency Declaration does hereby extend until noon April 12, 1990 the interim black drum regulations originally adopted at its October 5, 1989 meeting, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That beginning noon April 12, 1990 the interim black drum regulations originally adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on October 5, 1989 will be reinstated, including a second 300,000 fish quota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to enact an emergency closure, upon seventy-two (72) hours notice, when either quota is met.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, A copy of the Emergency Declaration is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

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Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary  
La. Dept. Wildlife & Fisheries

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Warren Pol, Chairman  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S.49:953(B) and 967(D) of the Administrative Procedures Act, and under the authority of R.S.56:326.1 and 326.3, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby finds that preliminary estimates of fishing mortality on black drum if unregulated, would be higher than desirable and accordingly adopts the following emergency rule:

Effective at 12:00 noon on February 9, 1990, there is hereby established for the recreational taking and possession of black drum, within and without state waters, a minimum size limit of 14 inches total length, and for the commercial taking and possession of black drum, within and without state waters, a minimum size limit of 18 inches total length.

There is further hereby established for the commercial taking of black drum an interim quota of 300,000 fish for the period October 12, 1989 through April 12, 1990, and beginning April 12, 1990, an additional quota of 300,000 fish.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to enact an emergency closure, upon seventy-two (72) hours notice, when either quota is met.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission recognizes that black drum landings have increased significantly from 1984-1988 and finds that preliminary estimates of current levels of fishing mortality are higher than desirable. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission acknowledges the importance of stabilizing fishing mortality rates at a level which will maintain an age structure that would ensure a healthy fishery in the future.

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Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary  
La. Dept. Wildlife & Fisheries

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Warren Pol, Chairman  
Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION AT THE  
REGULAR MEETING HELD IN LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA, FEBRUARY 1-2, 1990

RESOLUTION

Commercial Harvest of Spotted Seatrout  
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

WHEREAS, Act 889 of the 1988 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature established a quota for the commercial harvest of spotted seatrout in Louisiana at 1.25 million pounds, and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 1987 the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declared the commercial quota year for spotted seatrout to begin on September 1, 1987 and end on August 31, 1988 and on an annual basis thereafter, and

WHEREAS, the Commission is authorized to close finfish seasons using the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S.49:967, and

WHEREAS, Act 889 directs the Commission to close the commercial spotted seatrout fishery when the quota is projected to be reached, and

WHEREAS, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists, based on historical landings and cumulative commercial harvest to date, project that the spotted seatrout quota will be reached during the month of March 1990, and

WHEREAS, updated harvest figures could cause the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists to revise their projection forward, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized and directed to close the commercial fishery for spotted seatrout on the date the quota is projected to be reached as provided in R.S.56:325.3, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice to the public shall be given seventy-two hours prior to the effect of the closure, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the purchase, barter, trade, or sale of spotted seatrout taken from Louisiana waters after the closure is prohibited, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commercial taking or landing of spotted seatrout in Louisiana, whether caught within or without the territorial waters of Louisiana, after the closure is prohibited, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no vessel possessing or fishing any seine, gill net, trammel net, or hoop net shall have a spotted seatrout aboard the vessel, whether caught within or without the waters of the state, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that nothing shall prohibit the possession of fish legally taken prior to the closure.

Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary  
La. Dept. Wildlife & Fisheries

Warren Pol, Chairman  
Wildlife & Fisheries Commission

M I G R A T O R Y   W A T E R F O W L   C A S E S

OVERALL DEPARTMENT HUNTER CHECK

1989-90

MIGRATORY BIRD CASES 1989-1990

REGION I

TOTAL CASES - 39

HUNTERS CHECKED- 381

- 3-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 6-Hunting Ducks Or Geese W/O Federal Stamp
- 3-Hunting W/O State Stamp
- 11-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated For Steel Shot Only
- 1-Possession of Non-Game Bird-No Season
- 1-Hunting Ducks Closed Season
- 1-Possession Over Limit Of Ducks
- 2-Hunting With Unplugged Gun
- 1-Possession Of Completely Dressed MGB (No Wing Tip Left On)
- 1-Hunting W/O Non-Resident Duck Stamp
- 1-Hunting W/O Non-Resident Hunting License
- 1-Hunting Ducks Or Geese With Unsigned Federal Stamp
- 5-Hunting Ducks Closed Season
- 1-Hunting Ducks With Non-Valid License
- 1-Possession Of Untagged Game Birds

REGION 2

TOTAL CASES - 12

HUNTERS CHECKED-233

- 2-Possession Overlimit of Ducks
- 4-Hunt With Unsigned State Duck Stamp
- 5-Hunt MGB Illegal Hours
- 1-Hunt Ducks W/O Federal Duck Stamp

Page (2)

REGION 3

TOTAL CASES - 80

HUNTERS CHECKED-525

- 6-Hunting W/O State Duck Stamp
- 8-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp
- 3-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun
- 17-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
- 3-Hunting MGB Over Baited Area
- 2-Wanton Waste Of MGB
- 20-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
- 2-Possession Of Completely Dressed MGB (No Wing Tip Left On)
- 4-Hunting Ducks Closed Season
- 15-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks

REGION 4

TOTAL CASES - 52

HUNTERS CHECKED-1817

- 1-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 6-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp
- 3-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun
- 5-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
- 2-Possess Untagged MGB
- 2-Possession Over The Two-Day Limit Of MGB
- 3-Field Possession Of Freshly Killed MGB Closed Season
- 1-Wanton Waste Of MGB
- 12-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
- 3-Hunting Ducks Closed Season



Page (3)

REGION 4 CONT'D.

7-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks (Field Possession)

1-Aggravated Assault On An Officer

6-Hunting W/O State Duck Stamp

REGION 5

TOTAL CASES - 284

HUNTERS CHECKED-2520

35-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp

4-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun

20-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours

44-Hunting MGB Over Baited Area

3-Hunting MGB From A Vehicle

1-Hunting MGB With Illegal Firearm

8-Possess Untagged MGB

1-Field Possession Of Freshly Killed MGB Closed Season

8-Wanton Waste Of MGB

42-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only

3-Possess Over Limit Of Doves

3-Hunting Geese Closed Season

7-Possess Over Limit Of Geese

6-Hunting Ducks Closed Season

41-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks

1-Possess Over Limit Of Woodcocks

2-Taking Robins-No Season

2-Taking Killdeer-No Season

Page (4)

REGION 5 CONT'D.

1-Taking Cranes-No Season

5-Taking Or Possession of Other Non-Game Birds-No Season

1-Trapping Non-Game MGB

3-Hunting Doves Closed Season

15-Hunting W/O Resident License

4-Hunting W/O Non-Resident License

1-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer

23-Hunting W/O State Duck Stamp

REGION 6

TOTAL CASES - 121

HUNTERS CHECKED-1585

3-Wanton Waste Of MGB

19-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks

3-Hunting Ducks Closed Season

24-Hunting Ducks Or Geese W/O Federal Stamp

24-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours

2-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun

16-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only

2-Taking Grebe-No Season

1-Hunting MGB With Illegal Firearm

1-Possession Over The Two-Day Limit Of MGB

2-Hunting MGB From A Vehicle

1-Hunting With Unsigned Duck Stamp

2-Possession Over The Two Day Limit Of MGB

Page (5)

REGION 6 CONT'D.

1-No Resident License

4-Hunting W/O State Duck Stamp

9-Taking Or Possession Of Other Non-Game Birds-No Season

1-Possess Over Limit Of Geese

2-Possess Untagged MGB

1-Taking Robins-No Season

REGION 7

TOTAL CASES - 54

HUNTERS CHECKED-726

18-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours

11-Hunting MGB W/O Federal Stamp

3-Hunting W/O Resident License

10-Hunt W/O State Stamp

2-Hunt MGB W/Unplugged Gun

1-Possess Completely Dressed Ducks

5-Hunt Ducks Closed Season

1-Hunt Ducks W/Unsigned Ducks Stamp

2-Possession Untagged Ducks

1-Possession Over Field Limit (Ducks)

Page (6)

REGION 8

TOTAL CASES -265

HUNTERS CHECKED-809

- 36-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp
- 24-Hunting With Unsigned Duck Stamp
- 2-Hunting MGB With Unplugged Gun
- 6-Hunting MGB Illegal Hours
- 4-Hunting MGB Over Baited Area
- 12-Possess Untagged MGB
- 21-Possession Of Completely Dressed MGB (No Wing Tip Left)
- 3-Possession Over The Two-Day Limit Of MGB
- 4-Wanton Waste Of MGB
- 45-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only
- 2-Transport MGB Illegally
- 47-Possess Over Limit Of Ducks
- 5-Hunting Ducks Closed Season
- 1-Possess Over Limit Of Gallinules
- 32-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 1-Possess Wild Birds Or Wild Quadrupeds
- 3-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
- 1-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Levee Road
- 16-Hunting W/O State Duck Stamp

Page (7)

<u>TOTAL CASES</u>	<u>- 907</u>
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<u>TOTAL HUNTERS CHECKED</u>	<u>-8596</u>
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<u>PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL CASES MADE TO HUNTERS CHECKED-</u>	<u>10%</u>
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AGENDA  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION  
LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA  
FEBRUARY 1-2, 1990

- ✓ 1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of January 11-12, 1990
3. Waterfowl Season Report - Hugh Bateman
4. Report on Responsive Management Survey - Wade Byrd
5. Spotted Seatrout and Black Drum Commercial Quotas - Jerry Clark
6. Extension of Interim Black Drum Measures - Jerry Clark
7. Law Enforcement Monthly Report - Winton Vidrine
8. Annual Report on Two Large Patrol Offshore Boats - Winton Vidrine
9. Law Enforcement Migratory Waterfowl Report, 1989-90 Duck Season - Winton Vidrine
10. Secretary's Report to the Commission - Virginia Van Sickle

~~OTHER BUSINESS:~~

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

RESOLUTION

Adopted by the  
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission  
February 1-2, 1990; Lake Charles, Louisiana

WHEREAS, On October 5, 1989 the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission established interim regulations to slow down the harvest of black drum, and

WHEREAS, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission originally intended for the interim regulations to be operative until permanent measures could be developed and implemented, and

WHEREAS, The existing interim measures will expire on February 9, 1990, under the constraints of the Emergency Provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission by Emergency Declaration does hereby extend until noon April 12, 1990 the interim black drum regulations originally adopted at its October 5, 1989 meeting, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That beginning noon April 12, 1990 the interim black drum regulations originally adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on October 5, 1989 will be reinstated, including a second 300,000 fish quota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to enact an emergency closure, upon seventy-two (72) hours notice, when either quota is met.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, A copy of the Emergency Declaration is attached to and made a part of this resolution.

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Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary  
La. Dept. Wildlife & Fisheries

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Warren Pol, Chairman  
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

## DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S.49:953(B) and 967(D) of the Administrative Procedures Act, and under the authority of R.S.56:326.1 and 326.3, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby finds that preliminary estimates of fishing mortality on black drum if unregulated, would be higher than desirable and accordingly adopts the following emergency rule:

Effective at 12:00 noon on February 9, 1990, there is hereby established for the recreational taking and possession of black drum, within and without state waters, a minimum size limit of 14 inches total length, and for the commercial taking and possession of black drum, within and without state waters, a minimum size limit of 18 inches total length.

There is further hereby established for the commercial taking of black drum an interim quota of 300,000 fish for the period October 12, 1989 through April 12, 1990, and beginning April 12, 1990, an additional quota of 300,000 fish.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to enact an emergency closure, upon seventy-two (72) hours notice, when either quota is met.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission recognizes that black drum landings have increased significantly from 1984-1988 and finds that preliminary estimates of current levels of fishing mortality are higher than desirable. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission acknowledges the importance of stabilizing fishing mortality rates at a level which will maintain an age structure that would ensure a healthy fishery in the future.

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Virginia Van Sickle, Secretary  
La. Dept. Wildlife & Fisheries

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Warren Pol, Chairman  
Wildlife & Fisheries Commission



# Gulf tuna now a

By Janet McConaughy  
Associated Press

**V**ENICE — The new American appetite for fish steaks and sushi has turned tuna, once ignored by Gulf coast fishermen, into a multimillion-dollar-a-year paragon for Louisiana.

"Ten years ago, they would have been caught and shipped to another country. Five years ago, they probably weren't caught by any fishermen except sports fishermen," said Charles Wilson, an associate professor of marine science at the Coastal Fisheries Institute at Louisiana State University.

Actually, state figures show that commercial fishermen landed 226,000 pounds of tuna in Louisiana in 1985 — almost nothing compared to the 5.6 million pounds in 1987 and the 12.4 million last year.

The long, many-hooked lines dropped into the Gulf of Mexico usually come up with yellowfin tuna — a fish generally carved into steaks — rather than the giant bluefin most prized for sushi, said Philip Bowman of the state Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Yellowfin averages \$9 to \$60 pounds per fish and sells for about \$1 to \$1.50 a pound, compared to \$60 or 1,000 pounds at \$30 or more a pound for bluefin, said Wilson.

## Offers high profit

Because of worry that bluefin might otherwise be fished out of existence, boats can take only two per trip in U.S. waters — but the profit on even one has prompted many shrimpers to add long-line rigs to their boats or to switch from trawls to longlines, Wilson said.

"It's the typical lure of the sea — it's the chance of catching a 500-pound giant bluefin

tuna that's worth \$37 a pound that attracts you," he said.

Bluefins aren't usually processed in plants along the gulf, Bowman said. Instead, he said, they're sent air freight to Japan, New York or California.

The yellowfin tuna catch made up 1 percent of all gulf fish in 1985, a year that brought in 1.2 million pounds of red snapper, 3.4 million pounds of red drum and 5.7 million pounds of catfish.

## Top table fish

By 1988, Louisiana fishermen brought in more tuna than any other fish caught for the table, said Bowman. About 1.1 billion pounds of menhaden were brought in, but the U.S. Food and Drug Administration classifies menhaden as an industrial fish, because it's mostly used for fertilizer or animal food.

Bowman said the tuna catch may rise this year, but isn't likely to double again. Figures for 1989 won't be available until March, he said.

The change in America's eating habits is among a number of reasons for the fast rise in the number of tuna brought to Louisiana docks, said Wilson.

"When you and I were children, all we ate was canned tuna," he said. For steaks or filets, Wilson said Americans wanted white-meat fish such as flounder or trout, not tuna or other fish with bloody meat.

"U.S. consumption was historically of white fish. It turns out that the red-meat fish have a lot of good Omega 3 fatty acids, which doctors tell us are good for us."

In addition, he said, the tuna caught for canning factories along the Gulf of Mexico weren't handled properly.

"Red-meat fish, because it's so high in oils, can go rancid in a very short time. Now fishermen have learned that when

# Commissioners are briefed on possible legislative bills

BATON ROUGE (AP)

—The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries may ask the Legislature for nearly complete control over fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries commissioners were told Thursday.

The department staff briefed commissioners on dozens of possible bills that could be introduced when the Legislature convenes on April 17.

"We're just trying to give you complete input," said Virginia Van Sickle, who runs the department.

## Complete control

The Legislature last year gave the commission complete control over wildlife.

Now, said department staff, it's time to ask for the same control over fisheries with the exception of redfish and speckled trout.

Those species are dealt with in law now.

Just a few of what could be controversial bills are a finfish severance tax, granting arrest and enforcement authority to federal agents, a re-

quirement that those over 60 must have hunting and fishing licenses, psychological evaluation and drug testing of state agents and removal of yo-yos from trophy lakes.

Newsletter No. 5  
January, 1990

# LOUISIANA STILLHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 77475  
BATON ROUGE, LA.  
70879-7475

ATTENTION STILLHUNTERS:

DO NOT LOSE THIS NEWSLETTER! POST IT IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE...IT CONTAINS TIMES, DATES, AND PLACES OF LDWF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE 1990-91 HUNTING SEASONS!

We have received word the Commission will be seriously looking at reducing the number of dog-hunting days in the upcoming season, but they want input from the general public. It is absolutely paramount that every dedicated stillhunter make at least one of the three meetings and show support for those that speak out against deer-dogging. Last year, we were outnumbered at these meetings by dog hunters at up to 200-to-1. THIS CANNOT HAPPEN THIS YEAR. PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE PRESENT!

It is entirely possible that we can see the number of dog-hunting days severely reduced from the present number...but only if we make our voices heard through letters, petitions, and phone calls to the Commission, and the La. Department of Wildlife & Fisheries. Please write a note today or fold the attached form letter to envelope size, stamp and mail to:

Mr. Hugh Bateman  
Chief, Game Division  
La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries  
P.O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, La. 70898-9000

The LDWF tabulates all comments, pro & con in writing, and in person at the public hearings, and presents the resulting numbers to the members of the Commission for their consideration in setting seasons for the upcoming year--so you can see your voice does count! Get our petitions signed, and mail them back to us, or if there is not time, bring them with you to the public meeting, and give them to one of our representatives who will then take the microphone, and present them publicly to the members of the Commission.

We have been informed by very knowledgeable persons that since the survey of deer hunters came out last summer and showed 80% across the state prefer hunting deer without dogs, the Commission is ready to act. But unless they can see a public showing of support to counteract the heat they are sure to get from the deer-doggers, they may be forced to bow to the loud, vociferous minority. IF YOU TRULY LOVE STILLHUNTING FOR DEER, NOW MAY BE YOUR ONLY CHANCE!

All meetings are scheduled at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday nights:

1. FEBRUARY 1--LAKE CHARLES CIVIC CENTER.
2. FEBRUARY 15--KIVA ROOM, TEACHER EDUCATION BUILDING, SOUTHEASTERN LA. UNIVERSITY, HAMMOND, LA.
3. MARCH 1--HOLIDOME HOLIDAY INN, MONROE, LA.

The time to get involved is now! Get those petitions signed, and get your friends to the meetings. Write a letter and get your friends to co-sign it. We will have representatives at each meeting. They will have lapel pins to identify themselves. Louisiana is only one of eight states left that allow deer-dogging...let's help the Commission make it only seven states--and give deer hunting back to the real deer hunters!

For further information, contact one of the following:

BATON ROUGE: Gordon Hutchinson (504) 293-7621 (or) Lynn Ross (504) 261-9999  
BOSSIER CITY: Floyd Jones (318) 746-6473  
LAFAYETTE: Gary Robichaux (318) 477-2398  
SLIDELL: Rick Woodling (504) 468-1246 (W) (504) 649-3163 (H)

Mr. Hugh "Butch" Bateman  
Chief, Game Division  
Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries  
P.O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70898-9000

Dear Mr. Bateman,

I am writing to you to comment on the current stillhunting/deer-dogging controversy. As a dedicated stillhunter, I have just concluded a very frustrating season where my hunting was frequently disrupted by other peoples' dogs coming onto my hunting properties, and coursing my deer. As you know, once this happens a few times, the deer "go nocturnal" and seeing a doe, let alone a buck, becomes something of an event for the rest of the season.

I am tired of having my hunting ruined on my hunting property because other persons are allowed to hunt in the way they prefer, and infringe on my rights. I would like to see the number of dog days severely reduced in the upcoming season. Since I apparently am going to have to suffer with abuse of my rights on my land, at least I can then have a few more days of enjoying the fruits of my labors before having to watch my hunting virtually ruined by packs of baying hounds.

Please convey my opinion to the members of the Louisiana Wildlife Commission that dogs ruin both hunting success, and the esthetic experience of hunting for deer. I, for one, would like to see the number of days allotted for coursing deer with dogs restricted to at least one-half of what is presently allowed in all areas of the state. Apparently, banning deer dogs completely is too radical a measure at the present time. At least the suggested restrictions would allow stillhunters to enjoy a percentage of days that approximates their percentages in the overall number of deer hunters in the state. In other words, a fair and democratic allocation of stillhunting days to represent the true wishes of the majority, according to a recent survey conducted by your own department.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

# STILLHUNTERS' ASSOCIATION

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 77475  
BATON ROUGE, LA  
70879-7475

# JOIN TODAY!

The Louisiana Still Hunters' Association is a state-chartered non-profit corporation dedicated to the interests of hunters who prefer stillhunting methods for deer. Our main objectives are a more equitable allocation of gun-hunting days for deer, thus gaining a true representation of the preferences of all deer hunters as to stillhunting or with dogs; a unified and effective statewide No-Trespass Law; and an end to the unethical and illegal practices of road-hunting and poaching. Your membership application will gain you a strong voice to effect these organizational aims, and periodic newsletters informing you of progress and work towards these goals.

## LOUISIANA STILLHUNTERS' ASSOCIATION

Mail Check and Application To: LSHA  
P.O. Box 77475  
Baton Rouge, La. 70879-7475

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
(Area Code) Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP**  
**FEES \$10.00** per year  
(Groups of 10 or More  
\$5.00 per person)

LSHA.....

LA. STILLHUNTING PETITION

A PETITION TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION:

Gentlemen:

With over 180,000 big game license holders in the state of Louisiana, over 80% of those that hunt deer prefer hunting without dogs. Yet the number of days allocated to deer-doggers is far more in much of the state than those allowed to stillhunters.

Too long have a small minority of "hunters" forced this grossly unfair allocation of days for their own preferences. And these frequently consist of people who care less about hunting deer than they do "listening" to dogs run. Louisiana is one of only a very few states left in the entire country where this practice is not banned completely.

WE ARE TIRED OF LISTENING TO DOGS, AND SEEING NO DEER.  
As members of the vast majority, we urge you to ignore the demands of a vocal minority, and grant the stillhunters of this state at least 75% of the beginning 1990/91 deer season a designation of "STILLHUNT ONLY" IN ALL HUNTING AREAS!

NAME

ADDRESS

RETURN TO:

LA. STILLHUNTERS' ASSN. (LSHA)  
P.O. BOX 77475  
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70879-7475

JANUARY 1990 CASE REPORT - STATE WIDE

REGION	TOTAL CASES	ENFORCEMENT	OTHER DEPT.
Region I	86	83	3
Region II	71	71	0
Region III	96	91	5
Region IV	98	86	12
Region V	301	282	19
Region VI	188	175	13
Region VII	173	168	5
Region VIII	588	558	30
GRAND TOTAL	1,601	1,514	87

JANUARY 1989 CASE REPORT - STATE WIDE

GRAND TOTAL	1,380	1,195	185
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## S.W.E.P. ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1989

Manpower Allocation - 8 Current Headcount 7  
Budget Allocation - 282,215

### Activity Report for 1989 - January thru December

Total Cases	339
Hours Run	1,252
Boats Seized	30
Equipment Seized:	
1. Trawls	172
2. Illegal Gill Nets	69,100
3. Oyster Dredges	4
4. Wing Nets	68
5. Beam Trawls	16
Illegally Taken Fish and Wildlife:	
1. Shrimp	16,758 Lbs.
2. Fish	779
3. Fillets	84 Lbs.
4. Crabs	1,329 Lbs.

Activities involved in which reduce resource time and effort in  
Fish and Wildlife Patrol.

Search and Rescue Missions	26
Downed Aircraft Responses	2
Special Marine Events	6
Pelican Move	3 Days
Clean Our Beach Event	2
Congressional Coastal Erosion Tour	2
Coast Guard Assistance Calls	8
Courtroom Presentations	49
Repair and Maintenance Schedules:	
1. Bent Propellers	4
2. Delta Tide Haul Out	3 Wks.
3. Rip Tide Repair Time	2 Wks.
4. Maintenance-Fuel-Clean-Repair-Supply	832 Hrs.
	Yearly



Draft

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**  
**FEBRUARY 1-2, 1990**

Chairman Warren Pol presiding:

Thursday, February 1, 1990

Dr. Don Hines  
Mr. James Jenkins  
Mr. Bert Jones  
Mr. Norman McCall

Secretary Van Sickle was also present.

Chairman Pol welcomed Mr. Jesse Knowles, a former member of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and Senator Jack Doland to the Commission meeting.

At Thursday's meeting Mr. Hugh Bateman gave a report on the 1989-90 Waterfowl Season. Mr. Bateman reported that copies of the updated report on the waterfowl season were given to the Commissioners and proceeded to summarize the report. There was a split waterfowl season and for the second time since the early 1970's hunters hunted under the conventional bag limit as the point system was eliminated two years ago by federal regulations. There was also a statewide split for goose hunting which is still continuing in the West zone. For the first time since 1951 the daily bag limit for snow geese in Louisiana was increased from five to seven birds and there was an additional nine days of snow goose only hunting. This reflects the fact that snow goose populations

are doing very well at the present time and some additional opportunities for hunting recreation was provided in the federal regulations for this year, stated Mr. Bateman. This is expected to continue for next year. This year there were nine additional parishes in the state that were converted to the use of steel shot and this represents about ninety-five percent of the total waterfowl harvest area in the state.

The spring and summer coastal precipitation in Louisiana was well above normal with greater than twelve inches above average recorded through the month of August. The waterfowl habitat conditions in the coastal zones were generally good with an abundant amount of food available and the water levels were also excellent up to November, stated Mr. Bateman. Outside the coastal zone waterfowl habitat was generally restricted primarily to managed water areas until mid-December as there was near record drought conversely to that in the central, northwest and norther~~n~~ parts of the state. However, in the coastal zone waterfowl habitat was restricted to the managed areas and sheet waters in the rice belt of southwest Louisiana was abundant by mid-December and by early January in the central and northeast part of the state. Because of the record cold spell in December there was severe freezing of many wetlands in the norther~~n~~ sections of the state from December 15-17, 1989, and then a record freeze throughout the state from December 22-26, 1989. This year's\* December was the coldest on record for the state with the average temperature being ten

degrees below normal. Significant changes in the waterfowl distribution in the state resulted from this freeze with birds moving down to the coast and large number of birds moving into the state from northern areas. In terms of waterfowl population estimates recorded on all of the coastal zones surveys were all above normal and the highest since 1980. The dry habitat conditions in the central and north part of the state<sup>s</sup> early in the season and the late December freeze both in Louisiana and throughout the other states in the lower Mississippi River Valley favored an early and very increased migration into the state stated Mr. Bateman.

Hunting success along the coast, especially in the West zone, was much improved this winter with a maximum bag of three ducks common throughout both splits of the season. Gadwall, Greenwing Teal and Mallard were most common in the bag and harvest information from the past two seasons were collected from several private, commercial and federal areas across the state. This year the combined duck harvest for the areas that were checked was about eight thousand birds. Last year it was seventeen percent less than this year, stated Mr. Bateman. Although hunter efforts continued to decline this year but because of the increase number of birds that were available the department believes that there will be a moderate increase in the overall harvest of ducks on the Louisiana coast this year. Success rates from all areas that were checked on the coast were excellent with an average bag being 2.5 ducks.

The East zone encompasses most of north Louisiana, Catahoula Lake and the southeastern coastal marshes. There was a notable lack of an adequate rain in north and central Louisiana causing waterfowl habitat available to birds early in the year being very restricted. Mr. Bateman pointed that a trend was noted last year and continued this year that because of the drought the only water available to a lot of migrating birds that came into Louisiana were on those areas that were actively managed by sportsmen who were interested in putting water on their property for hunting and recreational purposes.

Waterfowl bag checks on eleven of the wildlife management areas in the East zone and on Catahoula showed very good hunting success. The total efforts were 1,016 and the total ducks bagged were 1,760 which is an average success rate of 1.7 ducks. The success rate varied from a high of 2.4 at Catahoula Lake and down to 2.2 at the Manchac Wildlife Management Area which were two of the better areas. It went down to less than one bird per hunting effort at the Boeuf Wildlife Management Area which is located in Caldwell parish.

Overall the department believes the waterfowl hunting success was improved in the coastal zone in 1989-90. Good habitat conditions and a severe winter were conducive to high waterfowl use of the state and the return to the traditional one-half hour before sunrise shooting hours influenced people to stay active in

the sport commented Mr. Bateman. It is anticipated that overall there will be a modest increase in the harvest of birds in Louisiana and the number of duck stamps sold will be relatively comparable to that from last year concluded Mr. Bateman.

Chairman Pol called for any questions. Dr. Hines asked what the prospects were for a teal season next year. Mr. Bateman stated that they were not good. The state is going to ask for consideration for a season and hopefully if there is some improvement in Canada on the breeding grounds the chances for getting this season would be better. But right now with the conditions looking like they do in the Dakotas and Minnesota the possibility is not good. Mr. Jones asked with the increase in areas with steel shot being introduced can any difference on lead poison be seen. Mr. Bateman informed Mr. Jones that there were no statewide investigations being done in terms of looking at the amount of lead in the gizzard. On Catahoula Lake this year there was a peak population of birds of about 380,000 with half or better being mallards and pintails. The hunting success was very good with the number of people hunting being very low. This year there was one of the worst lead poisoning outbreaks on Catahoula Lake that Mr. Bateman has seen since he has been working with the department. Conservative estimates would be probably an excess of ten thousand birds, mostly mallards and pintails, died as a result of lead poisoning on Catahoula Lake. The department believes that the conversion to steel will eventually make a difference but it

will take a while. Mr. Bateman is very hopeful that some of the research that the Game Division is cooperating in on Catahoula Lake with trying to ~~till~~<sup>till</sup> the lake bed and turn the soil under with a deep ~~till~~<sup>till</sup> plow will put the lead on the bottom so the ducks cannot get to it. Dr. Hines asked if the number of cases of lead poisoning had been documented. Mr. Bateman explained that this was strictly an estimate and that he and one of his employees were on Catahoula Lake for about two hours one day and picked up close to 150 dead birds. There were hundreds and hundreds of other birds that were dying from the lead poisoning which could not be reached and this went on from late November right on through the end of the duck season. Dr. Hines asked how the diagnosis was made to lead poisoning. Mr. Bateman stated that the gizzards had been opened and examined and usually some of the ducks are ~~taking~~<sup>taken</sup> over to the LSU Vet School every year. Mr. Jones stated that people need to change their shooting habits in order to eliminate a lot of the cripple birds that eventually are being killed and was wondering if there has been a study done on this. Mr. Bateman pointed out that this was a good point and there has been some research in Louisiana. Those who looked at this detailed research were convinced before the steel shot regulation went into effect that there was going to be some trade off. A few extra birds would be crippled but had hoped, on balance, that more birds would be saved in the long run by eliminating lead poisoning. The secret to be successful with steel shot is letting the birds get in real close advised Mr. Bateman.

Chairman Pol announced that the full agenda for the Commission meeting was going to be acted on at Thursday's meeting, if possible, instead of two days which would have included Friday. The reason for this is that there is the public hearing to be held at 7:00 p.m. this Thursday evening and also there are some very important meetings to be attended in the morning. If all the items are taken up at the Thursday's meeting there will be no Commission meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Friday morning advised Chairman Pol. At this point in the meeting Chairman Pol introduced Representative Randy Roach who came into the meeting.

The minutes of the regular Commission meeting of January 11-12, 1990 were unanimously approved at Thursday's meeting with a motion by Mr. McCall and seconded by Mr. Jenkins.

At Thursday's meeting Mr. Wade Byrd reported on the Responsive Management Survey. Mr. Byrd advised the Commission that there was a packet of the results of the survey in each of their Commission file. The survey that was taken had two objectives. One, they were to look at public preferences for the agency as to what the department should be doing more of in the future and two, in relationship to this to look at alternative funding mechanisms; if the public wanted the agency to be doing more were they willing to pay for it and if they were willing to pay for it, how. Mr. Byrd, at this point, summarized the results of the survey advising that the survey was conducted the last week of October and the first

week of November and it took a two week period to conduct. 1,574 households were contacted in Louisiana and the results were reviewed by Dr. Vernon Wright, Statistician at LSU. A ninety-five percent confidence limit was received with a margin of error that ranges between 2.6 and 1.5 percent depending upon the distribution of any given response. There were two areas that some statistical weighing techniques on. One is based on the number of people in the household and the other was with the percentage of the black response and being able to contact them. The survey showed that eighty percent of Louisianans are served directly by Wildlife and Fisheries and fall into one of the five major constituency groups that have been identified as hunters, fishermen, commercial user of the resources, owner of a boat or an active nonconsumptive user including indirect nonconsumptive users which is an individual who like to read about wildlife, watch wildlife shows, etc. Thirty-one percent of Louisianans consider themselves hunters. Sixty percent of Louisianans consider themselves fishermen. Twelve percent of Louisianans reported deriving part of their income from some commercial use of the resource. Forty-eight percent of Louisianans actively engaged in nonconsumptive wildlife activities. Twenty-two percent of Louisianans reported to have visited another state to hunt, fish or view wildlife in the past twelve months. Over ninety percent of Louisianans feel like Wildlife and Fisheries should increase a number of their activities even though such increases would result in increased expenditures. Sixty-six percent of the population rated the performance of the department as favorable



which is misleading in that eighteen percent had no opinion. Some of the different funding mechanisms that were looked at were two different general sales tax mechanisms (one is a dedication of an existing portion of general sales tax and the other is a new general sales tax), entrance fees to wildlife management areas, ~~exercise~~<sup>excise</sup> tax on hunting and fishing equipment, similar ~~exercise~~<sup>excise</sup> tax on outdoor equipment, a real estate tax, fee increases (commercial and recreational), and a bottle or plastic tax on nonrefundable bottles. Concluding, Mr. ~~Wade~~<sup>Byrd</sup> advised that if there were any questions he, along with Mr. Don Lee and Mr. Mike Olinde who also worked on the project were available.

Chairman Pol called for question. Mr. Jack Surles from the audience addressed Mr. Byrd and asked about the real estate tax and what did it entail. Mr Byrd advised that there has been a number of suggestions for a real estate tax which would be like one-tenth of a percent on the value of the transfer of that tax but this is not among the administratively backed measures this year. Mr. Surles, who manages wildlife areas, stated that he would be opposed to this tax primarily because he does not think the timber companies and landowners would be for it. He thinks that the sportsmen should stand on their own and pay their own bills and individuals do not need to be taxed as they are already taxed enough. Secretary Van Sickle explained that these funding sources were just ideas that the department received when examining what other states did and was just put out for the public input. The

department is not planning to proceed with a real estate transfer tax but wanted to know what the public would support. Secretary Van Sickle advised that she did go to the Governor with this idea but considering the economy and the problems that Louisiana has right now he elected not to support a real estate transfer tax.

Chairman Pol called on Senator Doland to address the Commission. Senator Doland asked the opinion of the Commission and Secretary Van Sickle about a couple of bills that he has prepared and which will be brought up in the next session of the legislature. The bills pertain to nutria and what is happening to the marsh because of the nutria. Trappers use to keep the nutria populations down but now they don't trap anymore, Senator Doland pointed out. Senator Doland asked that the Commission and department give consideration for supporting these two bills. One bill is to classify the nutria as an outlaw and kill on sight and the other one deals with obtaining some coastal erosion money and putting a bounty on the nutria of fifty cents or a dollar. The bills will come up in the regular session and by that time the Commission and department will have had plenty of time to study the case in respect to all view points concluded Senator Doland. Secretary Van Sickle advised that the last time the nutria populations were in check was about eight years ago when the price was right and at that time 3.5 million nutria were being trapped. Mr. Jones stated that a study had just been done on the nutria "eatout" and a report was given which pointed out that the

biologists did not think a bounty or a shoot out be suggested. Secretary Van Sickle advised that the shoot out was definitely not suggested. Mr. Jones stated that he agrees with Senator Doland that there are too many nutria but since there are a number of departmental people that are studying this issue he believes that before Senator Doland gets too far that they see what the staff believes would be the solution and work together on this. Mr. McCall advised Senator Doland that there were approximately fifty thousand nutria that died during the freeze which may have helped this issue some. Senator Doland asked what the law was pertaining to a person shooting a nutria. He was advised that it is illegal to shoot nutria outside of trapping season. A permit can be given to landowners to shoot outside of trapping season or to shoot all hours of the day. Senator Doland commented that he would have the two bills ready and if anything comes up and the bills should be amended to meet the best interest of wildlife he would be happy to amend them. Senator Doland stated that he would like to apply for a permit to eradicate nutria. Chairman Pol advised that the Commission and department will work with Senator Doland on the two bills.

Mr. Joe LeDoux, trapper, addressed the Commission. Mr. LeDoux stated that if a bounty is going to be given for the nutria why not the coyotes. This has been done in a lot of state<sup>s</sup>. Chairman Pol interjected that nutria is the issue and Mr. LeDoux can bring this the coyote issue up tonight at the public hearing. The Commission

and department are going to cooperate with Senator Doland in any way they can and if Mr. LeDoux wants to talk with Senator LeDoux later on about introducing a bill on coyotes that will be fine.

At Thursday's meeting Dr. Jerry Clark discussed the spotted seatrout and black drum commercial quotas. Dr. Clark reported on where the department stands on the spotted seatrout quotas. The preliminary estimate for September was 174,563 pounds, October was 113,417 pounds, November was 130,504 pounds and December's preliminary estimate for spotted seatrout was 183,189 pounds. The total is 601,673 pounds for the fishing year. The estimates for December are very preliminary because they are basically being gotten over the phone as much as the department can from the people of the National Fisheries Marine Service and some of the dealers. December is probably not as high as anticipated last time and the reasons are somewhat complex. First of which is, if the department is right about the freeze all those cold fronts throughout November and December were moving spotted seatrout out of the marsh and into the near shore waters. They were also accumulating on balance the absence of spotted seatrout in the marsh but the accumulation sort of leaves the department trying to guess where they are. This is just going to have to be watched and as of now the department is still looking at a March closure which has not changed from the last two months. Mr. Jenkins asked how much notice was needed. Seventy-two hours is needed for closure but what has traditionally been done and what is still going to be done

this year is prior to this going into place the staff looked at the data and put together a program for estimating when the closure and the program is still being used, advised Dr. Clark. Dr. Clark proposed a resolution giving the Secretary of Wildlife and Fisheries the authority to close the spotted seatrout fisheries once the quota has been predicted to be reached.

Mr. Jenkins made a motion that the resolution giving the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries the authority to close the spotted seatrout fisheries once the quota has been predicted to be reached be adopted and seconded by Mr. Jones.

Dr. Hines asked when Dr. Clark will get the January figures because they will be needed to predict when the quota will be reached. Dr. Clark stated that the department has predicted when the quota will be reached using the computer program for every month. Dr. Hines stated that if you don't have the January estimates and there has been a disruption and a displacement of the seatrout in December and early January it would seem like the time might be longer than if you are just using the data that you have at hand. Dr. Clark explained that the department predicts when the closure will be and continues to do this as the data comes in. A recommendation is made to the Secretary on the exact closure date when the department is confident with a good predictive date. Dr. Hines asked if the January data will be used before the final prediction for closure is made. Dr. Clark answered that they will

probably be using February data as well as January.

Mr. Harry Brown, a commercial fisherman from Holly Beach, LA, addressed the Commission. Mr. Brown stated that if he was not mistaken according to the reports from the Drum Committee that the Secretary of the department already has the authorization to close the fishery when the quota was reached and talking about closing a quota at 1,250,000 pounds when all that is recorded is 183,000 pounds. Mr. Jenkins stated that there was 600,000 pounds through December and that the 183,000 pounds was for the month of December only. Mr. Brown commented that since the freeze there have been no fish produced and he was opposed to the Commission delegating the authority to the Secretary of the department to close the spotted seatrout fishery. Dr. Hines asked that since it was going to be March before the information is obtained why does the Commission have to act upon this resolution today, why not wait and see what the date is in March. Chairman Pol commented that he saw no reason why not to act on it and the season is not going to be closed until the quota is reached. Mr. McCall asked what was Mr. Brown's reason for not having this acted upon today. Mr. Brown stated that this was a projected quota and was done on a computer and it has nothing to do with what is being caught. No fish are being produced in January and there are doubts if any will be in February and if it just so happens that this quota could extend into a Lenten month the fishermen would get a larger amount of money per pound for a fish then is being received now. If the

quota has not been reached and the fishermen are allowed to fish during Lent it would be a big monetary improvement in their income stated Mr. Brown. Mr. McCall commented that as he understands it these are projections but the season will not be closed until the quota is reached. Secretary Van Sickle stated that she is going to try and get it down to the pound. Dr. Clark explained that he is talking about using the computer program and all the data that is available at the time and as the time gets nearer it is watched closer and is based upon the computer program and actual landings. Last year the actual reported landings were over the quota by about 30,000 pounds. Dr. Hines stated that he still thought it was premature and did not see why with only half of the catch reported that the Commission needed to act on this now. There is no way that the quota can be reached by March 1st and this is the time it should be considered after there is additional information.

Representative Randy Roach addressed the Commission and stated as he understood the resolution it says that the Secretary is directed to close the fishery on the date the quota is projected to be reached and that this is basically all it says. Couldn't something else be put in to amend the resolution to say what months, or how this is going to be done so that you don't have the specter of somebody just using three or four months worth of information so that the fishermen would know when this is going to be done. There is nothing in this resolution that says what data is going to be used to project the date on which the quota will be

reached. Secretary Van Sickle pointed out that it was in the resolution (based on historical landings and cumulative commercial harvest to date) and asked what else could be added. Mr. Jones added that this is being done as a preventive measure so that the Commission will not get into a situation where they are not able to close the season without reconvening people from all over the state. Representative Roach stated that in answer to Mr. Brown's question as he looks at this statute and discussed it with Mr. Puckett, basically the Secretary has this type of generic authority but not with respect to speckled trout. The Commission has this authority and also has the authority to delegate it to the Secretary and this is what they are doing. Representative Roach stated that he was just wondering as far as the resolution was concerned what data will be used. Mr. Jones added it is the same data that has been used over the year, the historical catches, catches to date, National Marine Fisheries Services and there is a program. Representative Roach suggested that the resolution read "on the date the quota is projected to be reached based on....." and say what you are going to base it on. This way everybody knows you are not going to base it on just the data as of today. Chairman Pol stated that the resolution will be amended and asked Representative Roach how he wanted it to read. Representative Roach stated explain what data you are going to use when you make the projection. Secretary Van Sickle suggested that in the fourth "Whereas" put "when the quota is projected to be reached, based on historical landings and cumulative commercial harvest to



the date the decision that the public notice will be issued". Dr. Hines stated that he does not think historical landings are going to play a part this year because of the adverse conditions so if you just say cumulative commercial harvest that would be fine. Representative Roach suggested "cumulative commercial harvest through the date on which the notice is given". Secretary Van Sickle commented that this would be over fishing because if just cumulative commercial harvest is used we would have to wait until we had in hand 1.25 million pounds and this will be three weeks or so after it was landed and would end up being be 1.4 million pounds. Chairman Pol asked how was this resolution going to be amended? Mr. Jenkins advised that he did not think it needs amending and thinks that Representative Roach explained it pretty well and believes everyone is saying the same thing. Representative Roach asked Dr. Clark to explain the data that will be used to make the projection. Dr. Clark advised that at least two sets of data are used and maybe even three this year. One set of data is the traditional National Marine Fisheries Service landings reports which is what everything has been based on over the years. However, this year because of the black drum interest and also the question about the spotted seatrout the phones have been used repeatedly talking to the actual National Marine Fisheries Service people who collect the data and have also been contacting dealers, those people that are known to handle spotted seatrout, to obtain data. The new commercial landings report will be in place and also will be used to obtain data. Every piece of

information that is obtained will be used and this is being done every day advised Dr. Clark. Secretary Van Sickle is trying to point out that the date at which the recommended closure will be made is an unknown date, the reason being it is unknown is because it will be based upon the data collected and if the data goes up very rapidly it will be very soon but if the data follows historical patterns it probably will not be until the end of February first part of March before the recommendation is made explained Dr. Clark. The recommendation will not be made until the department has the data that they are sure will lead to the quota having been met. Representative Roach commented that Dr. Clark had indicated in response to a question asked earlier that the projection could not be made right now and it would have to be based on more current data which has yet to come in, was this correct. Dr. Clark acknowledged this was correct but added that the truth of the matter is that a projected closure date has been made on the basis of the computer program which will be in March. Dr. Clark advised that Commissioner Jenkins had asked that a report be given at every Commission meeting on the spotted seatrout quota and the black drum and this has been done and will continue. Representative Roach commented that if the authority is given today for the Secretary to close the spotted seatrout fishery the Commission does not anticipate the authority being exercised, although it could change, until the next meeting. Mr. Jenkins explained that the only way it would change would be if something happened like a big catch in January. Mr. McCall stated that this

was the same formula that was used last year and it came out very, very close, in fact just a little bit on the high side. Secretary Van Sickle advised that if the department is off, say ten percent, they <sup>could possibly</sup> ~~can~~ go back in and open up the season and allocate out the other ~~the~~ fish. Representative Roach stated that what he is trying to say is that everybody needs to understand exactly what it means as far as the authority and as long as everyone is satisfied that the department is not going to <sup>base</sup> ~~basing~~ their decision on what is known today but basing it on much more current data than that. Mr. Jones explained that the data that will be collected will be known by the Secretary ~~up~~ up to seventy two hours before the closing date. Representative Roach asked if the resolution actually means that it would be the date on which the quota is projected to be reached based on data, all data, which the department has as of the date on which the notice of closure is issued. Secretary Van Sickle answered this is correct. Mr. Jones stated that he thought Representative Roach was misunderstanding that a closure was being projected and possibly that Secretary Van Sickle would close it without using all the current data up to the date it is used. Representative Roach commented that what he is being told by the Commission and department is that the resolution means, "was that projected to be reached as of the date on which the notice of closure is issued so that you have all current data as of that date" and this is what the Commission and department said it was going to do and this is what it is going to be based on. The Commission agreed.

Mr. Jenkins called for the question. Chairman Pol stated that there has been a motion that the resolution be adopted relative to the closing of the spotted seatrout which was seconded by Mr. Jones. Chairman Pol called for vote. Motion passed with Dr. Hines opposing it.

(The full text of the resolution  
is made a part of the record)

Commercial Harvest of Spotted Seatrout  
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

WHEREAS, Act 889 of the 1988 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature established a quota for the commercial harvest of spotted seatrout in Louisiana at 1.25 million pounds, and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 1987 the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission declared the commercial quota year for spotted seatrout to begin on September 1, 1987 and end on August 31, 1988 and on an annual basis thereafter, and

WHEREAS, the Commission is authorized to close finfish seasons using the emergency provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:967, and

WHEREAS, Act 889 directs the Commission to close the commercial spotted seatrout fishery when the quota is projected to be reached, and

WHEREAS, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists, based on historical landings and cumulative commercial harvest to date, project that the spotted seatrout quota will be reached during the month of March 1990, and

WHEREAS, updated harvest figures could cause the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists to revise their projection forward, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Louisiana and Fisheries Commission that the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized and directed to close the commercial fishery for spotted seatrout on the date the quota is projected to be reached as provided in R.S. 56:325.3, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice to the public shall be given seventy-two hours prior to the effect of the closure, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the purchase, barter, trade, or sale of spotted seatrout taken from Louisiana waters after the

closure is prohibited, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the commercial taking or landing of spotted seatrout in Louisiana, whether caught within or without the territorial waters of Louisiana, after the closure is prohibited, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no vessel possession or fishing any seine, gill net, trammel net, or hoop net shall have a spotted seatrout aboard the vessel, whether caught within or without the waters of the state, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that nothing shall prohibit the possession of fish legally taken prior to the closure.

At Thursday's meeting Dr. Jerry Clark reported on the extension of interim black drum measures. Dr. Clark advised that the current estimate for the black drum quota through December is 70,000 fish which is not even near the quota, do not anticipate the quota to be met and in good shape on black drum through the first six month time period. The Commission was informed at a previous meeting that the first interim emergency rule was followed up with a permanent rule because it was anticipated that the black drum plan would not be completed until after the emergency rule expires. This has transpired and the black drum plan has not been finished and probably won't for another sixty days Dr. Clark

informed the Commission. The permanent rule was identical to the first emergency rule and the House Oversight Committee overturned the rule because they thought that other forms of rules would have been more appropriate. A letter has been received from the House Oversight Committee informing the department of this and suggesting that black drum rules in the future should be more like the original staff recommendation that included a slot limit for black drum. It is decision making time today advised Dr. Clark because the first emergency rule is about to expire and if nothing is done it will leave the black drum resource unregulated and given historic high levels of harvest, this would seem to be an inappropriate thing to do. The staff is proposing a second emergency rule identical to the first emergency rule and to complete the black drum plan as fast as possible and come back at that point in time with a permanent rule that would reflect what the plan says, would reflect staff recommendations, would reflect advice from the Oversight Committee and probably will look more like the original staff recommendation explained Dr. Clark. The declaration of emergency and resolution that is <sup>being</sup> ~~bring~~ brought before the Commission does two things. It will reinstate the Commission's previous emergency rules with a fourteen inch minimum for recreational fishery and an eighteen inch minimum for the commercial fishery and a second three hundred thousand fish quota that would follow up the first three hundred thousand fish quota. This will be adopted on an emergency basis and would exist only to such time as the black drum plan is completed which at that time

will be brought to the Commission with a final permanent rule. Mr. Pol asked for an estimate of time as what this will take. Dr. Clark advised that he had talked to his staff and the best estimate would be another sixty days. Some of the reasons for the delays are: the original stock assessment that was mailed out included two fairly divergent opinions and was mailed out for peer review to about twelve to fifteen scientists throughout the United States more than a month ago and only one comment has been received back; some of the department personnel are doing some of the stock assessment work that was not anticipated because of the work that others are doing for the department. Chairman Pol asked if the final rule is accepted by the Commission will it go back before the Oversight Committee for their approval. Dr. Clark answered yes, anything that is done on a permanent basis needs to go back ~~in~~ <sup>to the</sup> ~~front of~~ <sup>Committee</sup> Oversight. Dr. Clark also informed the Commission that they had adopted an emergency rule of a certain type, then adopted a permanent rule identical to the emergency rule and when Oversight objected the permanent rule and the department now recommends the Commission to come back with an identical second emergency and in some respects there is difficulty with this. The difficulty is that by coming back with an identical emergency the Commission is in some respect ~~is~~ second guessing the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) because the APA serves as an oversight to the Commission's actions and they have rejected those actions. There is some legal opinion that this can create a problem stated Dr. Clark which would be a legal problem to the challenge of the rule. Chairman Pol



asked if basically what the Commission is doing is asking the Oversight Committee to give them sixty days to come up with a plan that we can give back to them. Dr. Clark stated exactly. Mr. Jenkins suggested that Dr. Clark go back over the review of how this came to being, what the original recommendations were and why they were changed. Dr. Clark explained that the original recommendation from the staff to the Commission was a sixteen to twenty-four inch slot limit as an interim emergency measure until a plan for black drum could be put into place. At the meeting which this was presented to the Commission there was considerable public comment and it was the feeling of the Commission at that time that they directed the staff to go back and meet with the public, both recreational and commercial fishermen who were unhappy with the original proposed rule, in an attempt to reach a compromise that the majority of people who are interested in the issue could support as an interim rule. The department had a series of meetings, one of which went for almost twelve hours at the Wildlife and Fisheries Building on Quail Drive in Baton Rouge. A week later there was a second meeting in New Orleans that went on well into the evening that included both recreational and commercial fishermen. What the Commissioners now have in front of them and what they adopted as an emergency was the results of those meetings. This rule as an emergency was adopted at the Commission meeting at Toledo Bend and both recreational and commercial fishermen came before the Commission and testified in favor of this emergency rule with no opposition at the meeting to this proposed

interim emergency rule stated Dr. Clark. This is the history of how the permanent rule came to be that was rejected by the Oversight Committee advised Dr. Clark. Mr. Jenkins stated that what the department did was go through the public process, talked to lots and lots of people and the department's recommendation could have been either one of the two recommendations and either one would have solved the biological problem. Because of so much interest by so many people statewide in this problem the department went through the process of trying to hammer out a plan that the vast majority of the people and the fishermen in the state were interested in and this was what was adopted. This went to the Oversight Committee and for what ever reason they said it was not a good plan. Although this was an interim plan and a short term plan it was not the permanent plan so the Commission is now faced with going through the emergency procedures again to come up with another temporary solution to the problem state Mr. Jenkins and asked if it was Dr. Clark's opinion if they change from what they have been doing to something else on an interim basis it would be hard to manage or the improper thing to do. Dr. Clark answered that he believes that when this process is completed the department will not come back to the Commission with this set of rules. Dr. Clark added, however, these rules have already been in place and by April it will have been for 120 days and if something else is adopted now for another 120 days the department will probably come back with a different set of rules 120 days from now and in a six month time period there will have been three completely different

sets of rules and cannot recommend that the Commission do this. Chairman Pol~~s~~ stated that he does not want to agitate the Oversight Committee but want them to understand that the reason why they are in this mess right now is because the Commission took the suggestions and agreements of all the people that were on the Task Force Committee for the black drum and something has to be done to keep the rules going until a plan can be developed that will suit everyone. Dr. Clark advised that the reason the department is back before the Commission without a completed plan is because they have had to rely upon volunteer efforts and others to help do the work that needs to get done but are going to take control of that work and do it themselves and will be back within sixty days with a final proposed rule. Chairman Pol called for questions.

Representative Randy Roach, Lake Charles, LA, addressed the Commission. Representative Roach was on the Oversight Committee and stated that he was not necessarily disagree<sup>ing</sup> with what Dr. Clark has told the Commission about what the Oversight's<sup>g</sup> thinking was when they rejected the rule. At this point Representative Roach gave his interpretation of what happened at the hearing. When the committee heard about the rule and received the information it was discussed by the committee and they talked with Dr. Clark and other people in the department about what the original proposal was and why they made the original proposal and this made pretty good sense to the Oversight committee. This proposal was put before the task force and they disagreed with it. Representative Roach believes

that task forces are good ideas but does not believe that a task force should ~~dedicate~~<sup>dictate</sup> what is going to be done. When the committee took a look at the fishery, the biology and everything else that enters into it the committee could find no rational justification for this type of limit based on the questioning that took place at the hearing and basically what is being ~~doing~~<sup>done</sup> as Representative Roach sees it a fishery is being opened to harvest and keying that harvest on the very fish that should be protected in terms of the spawn stock. Many of the fish in this category are perhaps the least desirable fish from a commercial standpoint. Texas and Florida have adopted a slot limit and the slot limit that has been adopted is substantially similar to the one that was originally proposed. There is no biological reason why Louisiana should follow any other type of approach to management of the fishery. Representative Roach stated that he thinks it is known that we need to live with a slot limit which is biologically sound and it is the type of management that should be encouraged. The committee did not hear anything at the hearing as to why a slot limit should not be adopted advised Representative Roach and asked the Commission to consider this. From a commercial standpoint the most desirable valuable fish are the fish within the slot limit and your most productive fish from a biological standpoint in terms of the spawning, etc. your brood stock are the fish that are over the 24-27 inch range and this regulation in a sense discourages the harvest of the fish from 14-18, prohibits it, and in a sense encourages the harvest of the brood stock and based on biological

data if that is what the decisions are being based on Representative Roach does not see, if there is an emergency, why an emergency rule should be allowed to continue that concentrates and allows the harvest of the fish in that category.

Secretary Van Sickle stated that the Commission was repeatedly assured, as well as herself, that this biologically was an equally sound proposal as the slot was based upon the information that was available <sup>at the time, prior to the completion of the stock assessment,</sup> ~~then~~. The stock assessments are being completed and in sixty days there will be a formal plan and a permanent rule will be presented to the Oversight committee.

Mr. Jenkins asked Representative Roach who they talked to at the Oversight Committee and what group of fishermen did they listen to. Representative Roach stated that the hearing was very sparsely attended. Mr. Jenkins stated that is what he had understood and the Commission and department have talked to hundreds of people through a series of meetings and he does not believe just because a few people wanted the slot limit that it should be changed. Representative Roach pointed out that when you look at what Texas has done and look at what Florida has done and he would assume they are basing it on the same biological standards in terms of being concerned about the fishery and preserving the fishery as well as preserving the industry and trying to accommodate the interest of both, they use the slot limit. The original recommendation was a slot limit and Representative Roach still thinks that this is the

way the Commission should proceed. Representative Roach asked what addition information needs to be evaluated before the Commission can make its decision. Dr. Clark answered that the single most important piece of information that has not been tied down is the mortality by age. Total mortality is important but if regulations are trying to be directed there needs to be a good handle on what the mortality is by age using the current fishing methods. Dr. Clark stated that right now he would not defend the original preliminary sixteen to twenty-four inch ~~slot~~<sup>slot?</sup> for everyone because it would not be appropriate on the basis of the i Va is available right now. The recreational fishermen *A lot of people are questioning* much smaller fish than this and the original sixteen *are questioning* inch slot would have almost put them out of *Copie for* harvesting black drum. The department was will *this info!* this on an interim basis only to slow down the fish he department is looking at now are the actual mortalities by age class (1, 2, 3, & 4). Dr. Clark stated that right now if he had to come back today and advise what to do he would probably have one commercial slot that might be something like the original sixteen to twenty-four inch but would probably try to do something with the bag limit for recreational fishermen to reduce their harvest and maybe not even use a slot for them. A lot has been learned since the interim process started which was meant to slow the fishery down and to do the least amount of damage as possible to the people involved with the fishery during the interim and then come back with a permanent rule. The department is not there yet because it

doesn't have the best estimates of the annual fishing mortality by age class but will have this very soon commented Dr. Clark. Dr. Clark still supports rules much like the ones that were originally proposed and will work to make this the recommendation.

Representative Roach stated that this was the impression that the Oversight committee had and that is why the other was rejected as a permanent rule and the committee cannot understand why the slot limit cannot go and be adopted as the department was ready originally. Dr. Clark explained that the department was ready originally to do something on the interim that was expected to change when the permanent rule was done and still in this position. Dr. Clark stated that if he <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ asked today what the slot limit should be or what the bag limit should be for recreational and commercial fishermen he could only guess which he does not want to do. Representative Roach asked if Texas and Florida had a slot limit for recreational and is it not basically the same as it is for the commercial. Dr. Clark answered yes but he was in Texas and saw the length frequencies of the recreational catch and they are different then they are in Louisiana, they catch bigger ones than are caught in Louisiana. Mr. Jones stated that Dr. Clark was the one that set the Texas regulations as this was where he was employed prior to coming to Louisiana. Representative Roach stated this was why he was wondering why Texas did this and why Louisiana can't. Dr. Clark answered the states are different, there are no nets in the inside waters of Texas. Representative Roach explained

what he was talking about was the biological data that is used when the fish is evaluated, talking about basically the same fish. Mr. McCall asked Representative Roach if he was opposed to another sixty days to try and get a better plan. Representative Roach stated the way that the rule is presently proposed is that as far as the commercial value of the fishery is concerned there are a substantial number of fish being excluded from the catch and it is having an impact on the commercial fishing industry. If the department wants to continue and extend it another sixty days, ninety days or one hundred and twenty days it is the Commission's prerogative but still it is being done at a significant impact on a significant number of fishermen across the state who are not rejecting the idea of a slot limit commented Representative Roach. Mr. McCall stated that they wanted to do this right and at the same time try not to hurt the commercial fishermen or the sports fishermen. Mr. Jones stated that the majority of fishermen across the state agreed that this interim measure was the best until a permanent plan could be figured out and he ~~sympathized~~<sup>sympathized</sup> with Representative Roach's position of being obviously in an area that is sensitive to the interim measures. Mr. Jones asked Dr. Clark if this was not the consensus that came out that this interim measure would be the best workable. Dr. Clark stated that this was as close to a consensus as he has ever seen in fishery management. The Commission and department is trying to do what is best for all and not be totally affected by a small portion that will disrupt the masses. Representative Roach suggested to the Commission that



perhaps some of the people on the task force represented a fishery that concentrates on the larger fish and just because a task force makes a recommendation people should not be necessarily bound by that decision. When the Oversight committee had looked this over they felt like the original recommendation, somewhere in the slot similar to what Texas and Florida had proposed, would have been fair for all the fishery, explained Representative Roach. Chairman Pol stated that he has been totally opposed to task forces and he agrees with Representative Roach that this is shirking your responsibilities. Task forces have been formed that the Commission did not know anything about. Representative Roach stated that he is not opposed to task forces <sup>person</sup> ~~per say~~ and thinks public involvement should be encouraged but what he is saying is that he does not think that just because the task force says that it is so that it should be done. Mr. McCall explained the slot limits of Florida and Texas which differ quite a bit<sup>t</sup>. The question Mr. McCall is asking, do the fishermen think it would hurt to let this emergency go back into effect for sixty days to try and get the data that is necessary to come up with a good plan?

Representative Roach stated that he felt the answer to the question is that they feel, yes, that it would be<sup>be</sup> detrimental reason being this has not been the best year due to circumstances beyond control. At this point Chairman Pol asked Dr. Clark if it would be possible to use the original slot declaration and let that be the emergency declaration until the final rule is finished. Dr.

Clark stated that this could be done but he would not recommend it because there would be three different sets of rules within seventy days which creates a law enforcement problem, a problem in the minds of fishermen, an educational problem. A short discussion followed on the resolution and declaration of emergency with Mr. Puckett, Legal Counsel, advising approval of the resolution is approval of the declaration of emergency since it is incorporated into the resolution. Mr. Jenkins read the resolution and made a motion that the resolution on black drum be adopted. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Dr. Clark brought to the attention of the Commission that where the resolution says the rules as adopted in the first instance, those are the second paragraph on the declaration of emergency and being noticed by reference. At this point Dr. Clark read those rules into the record. Chairman Pol called for questions from the audience.

Mr. C. J. Kiffe, representing the Coastal Concern Organization also the commercial fishermen of Cameron parish, addressed the Commission. Mr. Kiffe stated that according to what Dr. Clark said a while ago he believes that since the emergency went into effect there was seventy thousand heads of fish caught. The emergency calls for three hundred thousand heads and if there is such an emergency in the black drum fishery then doing it three at a time there should have been more than seventy thousand head of drum caught. To Mr. Kiffe's estimation there is no emergency as far as black drum is concerned. Mr. Kiffe was on the Black Drum Task

Force and the task force did not recommend eighteen inch on up, they recommended sixteen to twenty-seven inch drum. The reason this was recommended was because a sow drum, bull drum will put up anywhere from six to eleven million eggs. The sow drum and the small drum have got to be protected, stated Mr. Kiffe. Texas has a fourteen to thirty inches for commercial and recreation. Florida has fourteen to twenty four inches for commercial fishermen and recreational fishermen with five hundred pounds per day per boat. Mr. Kiffe does not agree with Dr. Clark.

Mr. Harry Brown addressed the Commission. Mr. Brown was a member of the Ad Hoc Black Drum Committee that was designated to address this situation. Mr. Brown stated that the committee consisted of primarily big drum harvesters in the New Orleans area and they represented the people that were harvesting the large drum. There was a problem in Lake Pontchartrain last summer with the seines and spotter planes and Bob Marshall wrote his articles in the Times-Picayune causing trouble for everyone and right away there had to be emergency measures to take care of the drum situation to satisfy the general public which he understands, stated Mr. Brown. An emergency was enacted which said there was a catch of eighteen inch fish with no top limit on how big there are but can only harvest three hundred thousand fish. In western Louisiana people do not participate in a large drum fishery because they would rather leave those large fish there to replenish the resource rather than see them harvested. This emergency resolution that has

been adopted is the furthest thing from handling the problem because you don't have any restriction on the large fish at all, commented Mr. Brown. The western side of the state was out voted during the meetings on black drum, Mr. Brown informed the Commission. Secretary Van Sickle asked Mr. Brown if he had missed a couple of the meetings. Mr. Brown informed the Commission that he had but he had been sick. <sup>^</sup> There is a problem with the large drum fishery but they are not harvested in the western side of the state and anytime Mr. Kiffe has to catch an eighteen inch fish versus a fourteen inch fish it affects his economy tremendously. Concluding, Mr. Kiffe stated that any consideration that the Commission could give the fishermen on this ~~it~~ would be appreciated.

Dr. Hines asked Dr. Clark what he thought attributed to the low catch of black drum during the three month period. Dr. Clark stated he thought there were numerous reasons: the weather, the prices and the new regulations. Mr. Jones asked Dr. Clark <sup>if</sup> he could get a permanent rule within the sixty days that they have been talking about. Dr. Clark stated that they will be back before the Commission with a recommendation within sixty days for a permanent rule. Secretary <sup>Van Sickle</sup> asked what were the chances of reaching three hundred thousand fish in sixty days. Dr. Clark answered he did not know. Secretary Van Sickle called on Mr. John Roussel and he advised a hundred thousand in sixty day<sup>s</sup>. Dr. Hines stated that <sup>where</sup> ~~you~~ will have two hundred and twenty thousand <sup>until</sup> ~~till~~ April 12<sup>th</sup> that you

can catch according to the resolution and what are the chances of catching the two hundred twenty thousand fish by April 12~~th~~. Mr. Roussel answered, not good. Chairman Pol asked if at the end of the sixty days, can the Commission then enact a new resolution, encompass the changes and adopt it. Dr. Clark answered if there is regulatory authority to do all the things that have been brought up such as bag limits, etc. they probably could. Mr. Puckett will check on this, advised Dr. Clark.

Chairman Pol asked Mr. Jenkins if he would be willing to withdraw his motion on adopting the resolution on black drum and the Commission agree that there be no emergency resolution for the next sixty days and at the end of sixty days Dr. Clark come up with a permanent solution that will be agreeable to everyone which will then come before the Commission and go through all the proper procedures. Mr. Jenkins stated that he would have to think about this for a little while. His initial answer would be no because it would be saying that there is not an emergency nor a problem in the fishery if the Commission is just going to let it go back to the way it was. Chairman Pol commented it would only go back for a period of sixty days and reaching the full quota within this time is unlikely. Mr. Jenkins asked if ~~you got~~ the emergency measure <sup>would be</sup> in affect and ~~you don't catch~~ the fish <sup>are not caught</sup> what is the difference if you have it or you don't have it. If you are not going to be stopped by the limit within the sixty days and the emergency resolution is in effect what is the fishermen's problem. Chairman

Pol explained that the fishermen's problem is if the Commission lets the resolution die (one in effect for 120 days) then for all practical purposes for the next sixty days they will really not be bound by anything at all. Mr. Jenkins asked Dr. Clark if the fishermen were concerned about the size of the fish they can catch or was it the number of fish to be caught. Dr. Clark answered it was the size limit that is being recommended that the majority of the people at the meeting were concerned about which is an eighteen inch minimum. Dr. Clark pointed out that the difference between what is being proposed ~~now~~ and what was originally proposed is two inches (original was sixteen to twenty four inches). Mr. Jenkins asked Dr. Clark what was the objective. Dr. Clark stated that the objective was to not create confusion in the fishing industry by adopting four different sets of rules over a two or three month period and this is what the Commission is talking about now. Dr. Clark cannot personally recommend this and pointed out there is a recommendation because a whole series of negotiations had taken place throughout Louisiana. The representatives from western Louisiana who were on the task force, in fact did not attend the meetings where this discussion took place. There were small drum fishermen east of the river who did participate and were represented on the task force. There was very good cooperation from both the recreational and commercial fishermen on the black drum issue and the recreational fishermen who are not attending the meeting today may not want these rules withdrawn pointed out Dr. Clark. Mr. Jenkins stated that he agrees with Dr. Clark and

believes that the Commission would be acting in bad faith if they did something like this and he is going to stick with his motion. Chairman Pol asked Mr. Jenkins to restate his motion. Mr. Jenkins concurred and Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Dr. Hines stated that the primary purpose of all of this discussion and everything is to develop a long range plan for the black drum fisheries and it has been clearly pointed out today that there is no need for an emergency measure. The existing interim measure expires on February 9th and it could die a natural death and move forward developing this plan and within sixty days there would be a permanent plan without punishing anybody. This would also give everyone a chance to see within the next sixty days how the fisheries are affected by opening it wide open. If there are only seventy thousand fish caught in the next sixty days maybe no long range plan is needed but if there is two hundred and fifty or three hundred thousand fish caught then a long range plan is needed, stated Dr. Hines. (Dr. Hines feels like a long range plan is needed regardless.) Dr. Hines made a substitute motion that no action be taken on the declaration of emergency at this time. Seconded by Mr. McCall. Chairman Pol called for vote on substitution motion. Dr. Hines and Mr. McCall voted in favor of motion with Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Jones voted against motion. Chairman Pol abstained. Substitute motion failed.

Mr. Jenkins called for question on original motion. Motion was made by Mr. Jenkins and seconded by Mr. Jones. Dr. Hines and

Mr. McCall voted against motion. Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Jones voted for motion. There being a tie with 2 to 2, Chairman Pol voted for motion. Motion passed 3 to 2.

(The full text of the resolution  
is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, on October 5, 1989 the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission established interim regulations to slow down the harvest of black drum, and

WHEREAS, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission originally intended for the interim regulations to be operative until permanent measures could be developed and implemented, and

WHEREAS, The existing interim measures will expire on February 9, 1990, under the constraints of the Emergency Provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission by Emergency Declaration does hereby extend until noon April 12, 1990 the interim black drum regulations originally adopted at its October 5, 1989 meeting, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That beginning noon April 12, 1990 the interim black drum regulations originally adopted by the



Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on October 5, 1989 will be reinstated, including a second 300,000 fish quota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to enact an emergency closure, upon seventy-two (72) hours notice, when either quota is met.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, A copy of the Emergency Declaration is attached to and make a part of this resolution.

(The full text of the emergency declaration is made a part of the record)

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and 967(D) of the Administrative Procedures Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:326.1 and 326.3 the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby finds that preliminary estimates of fishing mortality on black drum if unregulated would be higher than desirable and accordingly adopts the following emergency rule:

Effective at 12:00 noon on February 9, 1990, there is hereby established for the recreational taking and possession of

black drum, within and without state waters, a minimum size limit of 14 inches total length, and for the commercial taking and possession of black drum, within and without state waters, a minimum size limit of 18 inches total length.

There is further hereby established for the commercial taking of black drum an interim quota of 300,000 fish for the period October 12, 1989 through April 12, and beginning April 12, 1990, and additional quota of 300,000 fish.

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is hereby authorized to enact an emergency closure, upon seventy-two (72) hours notice, when either quota is met.

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission recognizes that black drum landings have increased significantly from 1984-1988 and finds that preliminary estimates of current levels of fishing mortality are higher than desirable. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission acknowledges the importance of stabilizing fishing mortality rates at a level which will maintain an age structure that would ensure a healthy fishery in the future.

At Thursday's meeting Colonel Winton Vidrine introduced Mr. Richard Cockern and Mr. Thomas Becknell of Shikar Safari Club International. At this point during the meeting Mr. Cockern and Mr. Becknell presented an award to Lt. Chauvin as Louisiana's

Outstanding Wildlife Officer for 1989. Last year's selection of Outstanding Wildlife Officer was Agent Dufoue and his award was also presented at this meeting. Mr. Becknell stated that he and Mr. Cockern were happy to be attending the meeting and read a letter from Shikar Safari Club to both officers for a job well done.

Colonel Vidrine asked Mr. Jack Paybody, Vice President of Operations Game Thief to come forward. Mr. Paybody summarized the Operation Game Thief program for those who were not familiar with it. In the last five years there has been some 425 people arrested for wildlife violations and around fifty thousand dollars has been pay out in rewards. Violations have ranged from the killing of song birds to the interstate transportation of game fish. Mr. Paybody stated that he was attending the meeting to thank Secretary Van Sickle for her help and support and presented her~~g~~ with an award.

At Thursday's meeting Colonel Winton Vidrine gave the monthly law enforcement report for January. Colonel Vidrine reported that for the month of January the enforcement officers and the specialists from the Game Division, Fur and Refuge made a total of 1,601 cases. Comparing it with last year's monthly case report there were 1,380 cases made showing an increase of 221 cases.

At Thursday's meeting Colonel Vidrine gave the law enforcement

migratory waterfowl report for 1989-90 season. An annual migratory bird case report was provided to each Commissioner. Colonel Vidrine reported that the enforcement officers and the specialists checked 8,596 hunters and issued 907 citations. From these citations 141 people were charged with over limit of ducks. Comparing it with last year there were 6,264 hunters checked and 815 citations written. Last year there was a twelve percent violation and this year there was a ten percent violation showing a decrease. Colonel Vidrine asked if there were any questions. Mr. Jones asked if the other divisions had quit helping in enforcement as he noticed other department citations this year were 87 as compared to the prior year of 185. Secretary Van Sickle asked Mr. Hugh Bateman to address this. Mr. Bateman stated that this year part of the figures that Colonel Vidrine gave included the bag check work that the employees of the game division and the <sup>h</sup>refuge division do on those areas. This year about as many people or more were checked on the wildlife management areas and the difference in cases made was that there was a very, very low violation rate this year state<sup>d</sup> Mr. Bateman.

Colonel Vidrine stated that he would like to recognize P.P.G. Industries of Lake Charles who donated twelve four-wheelers to the Enforcement Division.

At Thursday's meeting the annual report on the large patrol offshore boats was given by Colonel Charlie Clark, ~~Colonel Clark,~~

Assistant Chief of Enforcement Division and Supervisor of the Saltwater Enforcement Patrol. The Saltwater Enforcement Patrol consists of two large boats, one is sixty-five <sup>feet</sup> foot and the other is forty-seven feet and are used to patrol the coastal waters and generally they are constrained by five foot of draft and they work outward of five foot. Eight positions are allocated for these boats, however currently there are only seven and it is very difficult to hire individuals for these boats or to keep them once they are trained. The budget allocation for a year is about ~~two~~ <sup>\$282,000</sup> hundred and eighty-two thousand dollars. In 1983 when the boats were first brought upon the line the budget was about ~~four hundred and ten thousand dollars~~ <sup>\$410,000</sup>. The operations have been streamlined down to a point where the budget is still healthy but literally have to manage what is done and how it is done, reported Colonel Clark. In the operating services money there is about thirty-eight percent of the money exhausted along with about fifty-nine percent in the operating supplies which is repairs. Looking at the year and the kind of work that is done in the cycle seventy percent of the work cycle will be coming up, stated Colonel Clark. The boats will get very, very active generally about the first of March when the pink shrimp start showing up in Chandeleur Sound around North Island. Try to follow the resources to be productive positive, where and if the resource is found and can stay on top of it can also find the violators. Colonel Clark explained that last year the number of hours on the boats was twelve hundred which was pretty low. These boats usually average about a thousand hours a

piece. During this particular the Delta Tide who has not had a Captain which means there were six twelve hours cycles and an eight hour day. So one crew goes out for a seven day period. What has had to be done in the interim because there is no one else in the department who has a 100 ton ocean operator license is run three man crews on one boat during the cycle shift which has left one boat sitting at the dock during the month. As far as the performance rating the boats are generally run about a thousand hours and in that thousand hours the resource will be found. The boats generally stay with the big boats and work as a support activity on the inside waters. Last year there were three hundred and thirty nine cases made and comparatively speaking over the last three years is about seventy five cases less. Thirty large offshore boats were seized this year and this process takes time, explained Colonel Clark. Once these boats have been seized they remaining the responsibility of the department until the boat is bonded out or the violator bonds out of jail. The first year the two offshore boats were in operation they made about eleven hundred cases. On its maiden voyage Colonel Clark took the Delta Tide out and forty-two trawlers were caught in one night. This does not happen any more, explained Colonel Clark. They go out, spend a lot of time, check a lot of boats and make a lot of public contact, but do not make a whole lot of cases. The boats are used in a lot of other activities which include search and rescue, support activities for the United States Coast Guard, special marine events, down<sup>ed</sup> aircraft, beach clean up programs, taking

congressional delegation to eroding marshes, etc. These boats are used to compliment the department and the services that are provided in many, many ways but fish and wildlife are the number one priority. By lending support to other agencies the department also receives support from other agencies such as the United States Coast Guard which saves a lot of money for routine patrol. Colonel Clark pointed out that in the three hundred and thirty cases there were one hundred and twenty-five trawl cases involved which are more serious violations. In comparison with the coastal agents all along the coast from Texas to Mississippi these two boats have about eighty four percent of all the trawling in close season cases made in the state of Louisiana. Last year they seized almost seventeen thousand pounds of shrimp off of boats, sixty-nine thousand one hundred feet of illegal gill net in the water and between yesterday and today they picked up another twenty-seven thousand feet, stated Colonel Clark. This time of the year would be the boats most active role in fish itself but December and January were very, very slow. The Rip Tide was sent around the Mississippi River last week and through Vermilion Bay and only four boats were checked. From a cost productive point of view the department trys to have individuals, whether they are agents in the field or the supervisors in the regional offices, tell about activities that are starting up. Colonel Clark concluded that what they are literally trying to do is pin point the activity and be productive and stay within a management perim<sup>a</sup>eter of the money and budget.

Mr. McCall asked about the special marine events, six days, was this one event. Colonel Clark answered that this was six different events. Mr. McCall asked that when the boat is <sup>run</sup> ~~ran~~ offshore, is there a two man crew, three or four. Colonel Clark answered there was a two man crew. Mr. McCall stated that as he understood it there were three hundred and thirty-nine total cases last year with two boats or about one hundred and sixty-eight cases per boat average, give or take. The running time was one thousand two hundred and fifty-two hours for two boats or six hundred and twenty-five hours per boat. Colonel Clark injected at this point that Mr. McCall has to take into consideration that the Rip Tide was repowered last year and down about a month plus three weeks of experimental stages. Mr. McCall asked about the price of the boats. Colonel Clark stated that one cost four <sup>\$ 440,000</sup> hundred and forty thousand dollars new and the other cost two <sup>\$ 220,000</sup> hundred and twenty thousand. Mr. McCall advised that he has a problem with this much money being tied up in boats, the value of the boats, the number of people it takes and the amount of money it takes to operate these vessels and come up with one <sup>hundred</sup> sixty-eight cases per boat or three hundred and thirty-nine cases for two boats. Colonel Clark explained that he is a pass Regional Major for Region VIII and he was one of the little guys who got in the eighteen and nineteen foot boats and tried to enforce places like Breton, Chandeleur Sound and the Gulf of Mexico off of Grand Isle. The kinds of equipment that would have to be bought and the manpower that would



have to be supplied to get in very small boats and go out and enforce the law would not be worth the effort, number one and number two, it could not be <sup>done</sup> ~~down~~ because the fishermen will be trawling in five and six <sup>foot</sup> seas. These boats are needed and by having these boats out there the individuals in the regions are being freed to go and do other things within the inside water system so literally you are accounting triple and quadruple your manpower by allowing these agents the time to go inshore and work the operations while the big boats are taking care of the problems offshore. Mr. McCall stated that he had no problem with the big boat, if they would be used but you cannot tell him that twelve hundred and fifty two hours a year for two boats is very much use. Colonel Clark stated that it is no running time but for him to tell McCall that if he had five hundred thousand dollars in the budget he could press the buttons on them and go but this does not necessarily mean that any more cases are going to be made. Mr. McCall asked if there was any room for improvement to get more cases. Colonel Clark stated to get more cases he would have to have more manpower put on the boats to where they literally run twenty four hours a day, no down time. The personnel now work six-twelve hour shifts, one eight hour day and the eight <sup>th</sup> day generally they have to come into the dock when they have bent propellers, clean the boat out, change the oil, etc. To be more productive Colonel Clark stated that he had to have more productive time and the only way to do this is to increase the running time that Mr. McCall is say<sup>ing</sup> but in many, many instances if <sup>would be doubled or quadrupled</sup> ~~you would double and quadruple~~ the shift, he could not promise more

production because it is based upon the violators being there. Mr. McCall stated that ever since he has been on the Commission he has been hearing complaints from the Texas coast to <sup>the</sup> Intercoastal City about very little patrolling offshore when the season is closed. Colonel Clark commented that he would like to bring copies of the citations that were issued in that area to next month's Commission meeting. Mr. McCall stated that since they were pressed for time he was going to look over the report and would like to bring it back up at a later meeting. Chairman Polk asked that the Commission take this under advisement and at the next meeting discuss it with Colonel Clark.

Mr. Puckett, Legal Counsel, advised the Commission that Representative Roach has to leave and he has requested permission to address the Commission briefly.

Representative Roach addressed the Commission and stated that first of all despite what has transpired this afternoon he appreciated the Commission coming to Lake Charles and really wanted to let the Commission know how much the Legislature appreciate the jobs that the Commissioners have and the jobs that they have to do. Representative Roach advised that ~~he~~ he had learned a lot this afternoon and he knows that the Commission has decision they have to make and he understands this. On February 19, there will be a special Coastal Resources Subcommittee hearing in Baton Rouge and at this time there will be sort of a state of the state review of

the fishing industry and other activities involved in the coastal regions of Louisiana. Representative Roach invited the Commissioners to attend this hearing. Some of the items that will be discussed are: The Impacts of the Freeze and Other Natural Disasters in Coastal Louisiana, The Trends in Commercial and Recreational Fishing, Both Inshore and Offshore, Report from the Fur and Alligator Council on the Fur Industry, brief summary of the Status of the Recommendations and Activities of the Task Forces that have been ongoing as well as a report from the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission regarding their activities. Representative Roach encouraged those that can attend to come to the hearing and give feedback to let them know how the Commission feels about how things are going, the legislative framework or the regulatory frame work in which the Commission has to operate. Representative Roach mentioned a couple of pieces of legislation which will impact the Commission and department which he will be introducing in conjunction with some other legislators. One is to establish an auxiliary enforcement wing within the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, another would be a bill seeking to authorize the Secretary to use the U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents to assist in the enforcement efforts. A bill pertaining to this was introduced once before, but fail<sup>ed</sup> the House by three or four votes. Representative Roach thanked the Commission.

At Thursday's meeting Secretary Van Sickle gave her report to the Commission. Secretary Van Sickle reported that the Legislative Review meeting was held and picked up on the Commission's advice

pertaining to deleting certain bills. <sup>He</sup>Went to the Governor's office and met with Tom Casey and six more bills were deleted, getting it down to thirty pieces of legislation and the major ones still need to go before the Governor.

Colonel Clark was invited to go to the state of Hawaii and a letter was received from the Chairman of the House Committee on Ocean and Marine Resources stating appreciation for his input into the development of a law enforcement program in Hawaii.

The public information efforts that were started about a year ago are paying off. Secretary Van Sickle pointed out news clippings from one week of coverage that Mr. Keith LaCaze is putting out for information about what the enforcement personnel are doing.

There was an artificial reef public hearing last night stated Secretary Van Sickle. Unfortunately there was not one recreational fishermen that showed up to testify. The people that came to testify did not want any reef developed inshore. A more complete report will be given on this as the inshore artificial reef plan is completed and brought before the Commission for their concurrence.

The feedback that is being received on the Black Bass Management Plan that came out of the Freshwater Fisheries Division

is excellent. Secretary Van Sickle received a letter from the Association of Louisiana Bass Clubs basically endorsing the plan in total. There are still a lot of people that are now aware of what the plan does and as it involves change the department does anticipate that they will be hearing from a lot of people that will object to the plan. Right now the department is trying to get the facts out regarding the plan, stated Secretary Van Sickle.

The Governor did declare a disaster as the results of the freeze. The parishes in the coastal zones including Cameron and Calcasieu are eligible for their fishermen to receive disaster assistance. As was presented in the department's presentation to the Commission there was not a biological disaster that would warrant shutting down any of the fisheries but fishermen were displaced and they were able to document the economic impacts of the freeze on Louisiana fishermen.

Upon conclusion of Secretary Van Sickle's report Chairman Pol stated that there were a couple of items under other business and called upon Mr. McCall to present his items.

Mr. McCall advised that he had two items that he wanted to present. The Alligator Task Force recommended increasing the two dollar tag fee to four dollars on the alligator which the Commission went along with. Part of this money was to hire extra personnel to assist in the alligator program and Mr. McCall asked

for an update on this.

Secretary Van Sickle stated that she was also concerned about this and has made some commitments to the alligator industry that parallel exactly what this Commission intended to do with the money that is raised from the tags. At this point Secretary Van Sickle asked Mr. Johnnie Tarver to come up and explain where the department is in the hiring process for the alligator program coordinator and the two other positions that were authorized to be filled.

Mr. Johnnie Tarver explained that it was decided earlier that the first thing to do was to hire the coordinator then let him sit in on the interviews for hiring the rest of the personnel. A list (probational) was called for from Civil Service several months ago, people were interviewed (three showed up), a recommendation was made and the job was offered to one of the applicants and he declined. Since that time another list (promotional) has been called for and the list is sitting on Mr. Tarver's desk as he speaks. Interviews are set up for next Wednesday. This is for the position of the coordinator. Secretary <sup>Van Sickle</sup> asked about the other two positions. Mr. Tarver advised that he was holding off on hiring the other two until the coordinator is in place so that he will be able to participate in the interview process. Secretary Van Sickle stated that when she authorized the positions to be filled, that also the job descriptions be written up and submitted to Civil

Service, was this done?' Mr. Tarver answered it was done and explained that the Civil Service process is often a very slow process.

Mr. McCall continued and stated that today has been the eighteenth day that there has been no oyster fishing in Calcasieu Lake due to high water and pollution. And with the way it looks outside and the heights of the river Mr. McCall was sure that there would be another twelve, fifteen, eighteen days or more so the outlook is that there will be a month of fishing time lost in Calcasieu Lake. Mr. McCall advised that he wanted the Commission to be aware of this and possibly consider, at the appropriate time, to grant an extension maybe to April 1st for the oyster fishermen in Calcasieu Lake. Secretary Van Sickle stated that this can be considered and asked Dr. Clark to look into this extension and see if it can be extended without endangering public health and safety or the reefs themselves.

Mr. C. J. Kiffe addressed the Commission. Mr. Kiffe stated that last year, 1988, the regular oyster season closed March 29th, thirty minutes after sundown. During the open season there were sixty-three days and seventy-nine days of closed season. There was an extension of thirty days which was brought about by Representative Randy Roach passing a resolution in the legislature. Overall with the extension of thirty days plus the regular season there was a closure of ninety-one days that the oyster fishermen

could not fish because of high water. There <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ ninety-one days of closure and only eight<sup>1</sup>-three days opened where the oyster fishermen could work, pointed out Mr. Kiffe.

At Thursday's meeting Chairman Pol stated that Mr. Hugh Bateman wanted to present an item to the Commission for consideration. Mr. Jones moved that Mr. Bateman present the item before the Commission, seconded by Mr. Jenkins and passed unanimously.

Mr. Hugh Bateman introduced to the Commission a proposal that the department staff and Forest Service staff has been working on in regard to deer hunting. At this time, and only for informational purposes, Mr. Bateman stated that a very brief overview of the proposal would be given. A copy of the proposal and Louisiana state map showing properties was supplied to each Commissioner. Mr. Jerry Farrar, Deer Study Leader, gave a very brief review of the report.

Mr. Farrar informed the Commission that what is being proposed today is a major change in the deer hunting season for the Kisatchie National Forest. Mr. Danny Britt, Supervisor, Kisatchie National Forest, and Mr. Mark Webb, Timber Range and Wildlife, Kisatchie National Forest were introduced by Mr. Farrar. This proposal was born out of the joint concerns of both agencies about low deer herds on the Kisatchie National Forest. The proposal will



change the fifty-six days of deer hunting allowed on a national forest to approximately twenty-one days being recommended for the 1990-91 season. Kisatchie has had the same season as the general outside areas, primarily Area 2, for several years and has been opened to free public hunting. The season that is being proposed will bring it more into line with the rest of the public areas in the state (wildlife management areas and wildlife refuges). There has been two key areas in the national forest lands known as the National Red Dirt Wildlife Management Preserve and the National Catahoula Wildlife Management Preserve with conservative season in line somewhat like the wildlife management areas and have provided some insight into the value of conservative seasons in this area. With the dramatic increase in the leasing and posting of lands in the areas of Areas 2, 3 and 4 there has been a dramatic increase of hunter use on the public lands simultaneous with the decline in deer herds. Joint research by the U.S. Forest Service, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Dr. Mark Johnson of the LSU Agriculture Center has demonstrated that deer are being lost on these areas primarily due to noncompliance with bucks only hunting regulations. A shorter deer season on the area is being recommended as a first step of restoring deer herds and maintaining a reasonable hunting opportunity. The objective of this proposal is to increase the deer population on a national forest area to levels that are more consistent than what it is capable of producing. This will provide numbers of deer for both deer hunters and non-hunters. This proposal is in direct compliance with a

recently completed Deer Task Force to address the problem of low deer herds in this particular area concluded Mr. Farrar.

Chairman Pol asked Mr. Britt to address the Commission on this proposal. Mr. Britt stated that they to believe that deer populations in the forest are less than they could be which causes the Forest Service some concern. They have worked with the Wildlife and Fisheries Department to see if something could be done about this and realize the importance of national forest land in the state, healthy population and a variety of game management. The Forest Service fully supports the department to look at this proposal and see if something could be done, concluded Mr. Britt.

Mr. Bateman emphasized that this was for informational purposes only and will have to go through public review like all the rest of the regulations. There will be an opportunity at the public hearing this evening and the other two that are scheduled later for people to express their opinions and make appropriate comments on the proposal. Mr. Bateman urged the Commissioners to take time and review the proposal because it did represent a drastic change in terms of hunting seasons on a huge piece of public land (520,000 acres) that deserves some attention.

Chairman Pol announced that the Commission will go into Executive Session to discuss litigation over the oyster leases and shell dredging and will reconvene in fifteen minutes. Mr. Jones

9 . . . 2

moved that the Commission go into Executive Session, seconded by Mr. McCall and passed unanimously. The Commission went into Executive Session at this time.

Chairman Pol reconvened the February 1, 1990, Commission meeting in Lake Charles, LA and stated that he would accept a motion for adjournment. There being no other business Mr. Jenkins made a motion for adjournment of the February 1, 1990, Commission meeting and it was seconded by Dr. Hines. Motion passed unanimously.

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Virginia Van Sickle  
Secretary

sb

ENFORCEMENT

CASE REPORT

FEBRUARY 1990

ENFORCEMENT CASE REPORT-FEBRUARY 1990

REGION I

TOTAL CASES-95

ENFORCEMENT-95

OTHER - 0

11-Boating

32-Angling W/O A License

21-Fish Without Resident Pole License

1-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

2-Take Game Fish Illegally

2-Taking/Possessing Over Limit Or Undersized Game fish

1-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession

2-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License

1-Hunting W/O Resident License

4-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft

4-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours (Except Deer, Bear  
Turkey)

4-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Public Road Or Road Right-of-Way

3-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA

2-Criminal Trespass

1-Criminal Damage Of State Property

1-Operate ATV Vehicle On Public Road

1-Attempt First Degree Murder of Policeman

1-Park No Park Zone

CONFISCATIONS:

13 white perch, 217 1/2 lbs. catfish, 1 hoop net, 2 guns, 1 spotlight.

Page (2)

REGION 2

TOTAL CASES-76

ENFORCEMENT-76

OTHER - 0

16-Boating

10-Angling W/O A License

10-Fish Without Resident Pole License

1-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

1-Take Game Fish Illegally

1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License

1-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish Without A Vessel License

1-Transport W/O Required License

1-Hunting W/O Resident License

3-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft

8-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours

3-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Public Road Or Road Right-Of-Way

2-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA

1-Illegal Possession Of Drugs Or Marijuana

4-DWI

13-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

CONFISCATIONS:

4 rifles, 1 catfish, 1 buffalo fish, 1 bass, 8 crappie.

Page (3)

REGION 3

TOTAL CASES-76

ENFORCEMENT-73

OTHER - 3

18-Boating

17-Angling W/O A License

2-Fish Without Resident Pole License

3-Take Game Fish Illegally

2-Take Undersize Black Bass

1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License

1-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

2-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

5-Use Illegal Mesh Nets

1-Leave Nets Unattended

1-Take Or Possess Undersize Commercial Fish

1-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft

1-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear Closed Season

1-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear Illegal Hours

1-Field Possession Of Freshly Killed MGB Closed Season

3-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA

5-Criminal Trespass

CONFISCATIONS:

76 lbs. catfish filet, 2 wood ducks, 91 undersize catfish, 1 buffalo, 2 black bass, 16 brem, 15 h.p. Evinrude motor, 1 wire hoop net, 1 gill net, 1 dip net, 4 hoop nets.

Page (4)

REGION 4

TOTAL CASES-83

ENFORCEMENT-79

OTHER - 4

12-Boating

11-Angling W/O A License

11-Fish Without Resident Pole License

4-Use Gear W/O Recreation Gear License

2-Take Game Fish Illegally

1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License

3-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

1-Use Purse Seines Illegally In Inside Or Outside Waters

1-Take Or Possess Undersize Commercial Fish

5-Hunting W/O Resident License

1-Failure To Abide By Commission Rules

7-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft

1-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer

3-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours (Except Deer,  
Bear, Turkey)

3-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Road Or Road Right-Of-Way

1-Take Rabbits Illegal Methods

4-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear C/S

3-Hunt Or Take Deer From Public Road

3-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA

1-Resisting Arrest

1-Illegal Possession Of Drugs Or Marijuana

1-DWI



Page (5)

REGION 4 CONT'D.

2-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

1-Possession Of Stolen Property

CONFISCATIONS:

64 undersized catfish, 55 crappie, 5 bar fish, 6 hoop nets with lead, 2 shotguns, 2 rifles, 2 spotlights, 1 rabbit, 1/2 oz. marijuana.

REGION 5

TOTAL CASES-204

ENFORCEMENT-197

OTHER - 7

36-Boating

45-Angling W/O A License

1-Fish Without Resident Pole License

1-Use Gear W/O Recreational Gear License

1-Angling W/O Saltwater License

4-Take Undersize Black Bass

1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License

1-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License

2-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish Without A Vessel License

2-Transport W/O Required License

1-Leave Nets Unattended

1-Buy Commercial Fish From Un-Licensed Fisherman

1-Fail To Comply W/Permit Requirements

2-Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area Polluted

3-Hunting W/O Resident License

4-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft

2-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer

Page (6)

REGION 5 CONT'D.

8-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours

(Except Deer, Bear, Turkey)

14-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Public Road Or Road Right-Of-Way

1-Hunting Without State Duck Stamp

1-Field Possession Of Deer Meat W/O Tag

1-Hunt Raccoons Or Opossums Illegally

1-Hunting Ducks Or Geese Without Federal Stamp

10-Hunting MGB From A Vehicle

9-Using Lead Shot In Area Designated As Steel Shot Only

2-Hunting Geese Closed Season

2-Littering

1-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries

CONFISCATIONS:

10 rabbits, 29 geese, 1 bass, 2 raccoons, 1 rail, 1 spoonbill catfish.

REGION 6

TOTAL CASES-175

ENFORCEMENT-168

OTHER - 7

55-Boating

52-Angling W/O A License

11-Fish Without Resident Pole License

1-Not Abiding By Commission Rules And Regulations

1-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License

5-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

1-Fail To Maintain Records

2-Transport W/O Required License

Page (7)

REGION 6 CONT'D.

- 1-Illegal Shipping Of Commercial Fish Shipping Regs., Tags & Identification
- 2-Take Or Possess Undersize Commercial Fish
- 2-Take Undersize Oysters From Natural Reef
- 5-Harvest Oysters Without Oyster Harvester License
- 3-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 4-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
- 3-Buying And/Or Selling Wild Quadrupeds Or Wild Birds
- 5-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours  
(Except Deer, Bear, Turkey)
- 7-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Public Road Or Road Right-Of-Way
- 5-Hunt Raccoons Or Opossums Illegally
- 6-Possess Untagged MGB
- 2-Taking Robins-No Season
- 1-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA
- 1-Littering

CONFISCATIONS:

39 rabbits, 2 outboard motors, 22 ducks, 202 catfish spoonbill, 13 invoices, 1 shotgun.

REGION 7

TOTAL CASES-87

ENFORCEMENT-86

OTHER - 1

- 11-Boating
- 31-Fishing Without Resident Basic License
- 22-Fishing Without Cane pell License
- 2-Use Gear Without Recreational Gear License

Page (8)

REGION 7 CONT'D.

- 4-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealers License
- 2-Hunt W/O Resident License
- 2-Hunt From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft
- 3-Hunt With Unplugged Gun
- 1-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Public Road Or Highway Right-Of-Way
- 1-Take And/Or Possess Over The Limit Of Rabbits
- 2-Hunt Or Take Deer Or Bear Illegal Hours
- 1-Hunt Or Take Illegal Deer O/S
- 4-Criminal Trespass

CONFISCATIONS:

2 lights, 1 shotgun, 15 rabbits.

REGION 8

TOTAL CASES-451

ENFORCEMENT-449

OTHER - 2

- 55-Boating
- 48-Angling W/O A License
- 11-Fish Without Resident Pole License
- 9-Angling W/O Saltwater License
- 6-Take Game Fish Illegally
- 3-Take Or Possess Undersized Red Drum
- 1-Take Or Possess Undersized Black Drum
- 7-Fail To Have Commercial License In Possession
- 24-Take Or Sell Commercial Fish Or Bait Species W/O Commercial License
- 16-Take Commercial Fish W/O Commercial Gear License
- 19-Take Or Possess Commercial Fish Without A Vessel License

REGION 8 CONT'D.

15-Sell And/Or Buy Fish W/O Wholesale/Retail Dealer's License

1-Fail To Maintain Records

1-Transport W/O Required License

2-Use Illegal Mesh Nets

3-Leave Nets Unattended

4-Take Or Possess Undersize Commercial Fish

4-Blocking Passage Of Fish

1-Destroy Legal Crab Traps Or Removing Contents

2-Tending Crab Traps Illegal Hours

7-Take/Possess Oysters Without Oyster Harvester License

1-Failure To Mark/Tag Nets

28-Failure To Have Written Permission

14-Unlawfully Take Oysters From State Water Bottoms

57-Taking Oysters From Unapproved Area Polluted

22-Unlawfully Take Oysters Off A Private Lease

5-Use Undersized Dredge Without Permit

2-Take Oysters Illegal Hours

9-Failure To Display Proper Number On Vessel

1-Buying Or Selling For Resale Untagged Oysters

11-Harvest Oysters Without Oyster Harvester License

4-Fail To Cull Oysters In Proper Location

6-Hunt Raccoons Or Opossums Illegally

4-Possessing F.B.A. W/O License

4-Trap Or Sell F.B.A. Or Parts W/O Res. Or Non-Resident License

1-Buy Or Sell F.B.A. W/O Buyers License

REGION 8 CONT'D.

- 3-Trespass On Marshlands To Take F.B.A
- 2-Not Abiding By Rules And Regulations On WMA
- 1-Hunting MGB Over Baited Area
- 22-Hunting W/O Resident License
- 3-Hunting W/O Non-Resident License
- 2-Failure To Abide By Commission Rules
- 8-Hunting From Moving Vehicle And/Or Aircraft
- 6-Hunting W/Unplugged Gun Or Silencer
- 4-Buying And/Or Selling Wild Quadrupeds Or Wild Birds
- 13-Hunt Wild Quadrupeds And/Or Wild Birds Illegal Hours
- 9-Hunt Or Discharge Firearm From Public Road Or Road Right-Of-Way
- 2-Take And/Or Possession Over Limit Of Rabbits
- 2-Taking Robins-No Season
- 3-Resisting Arrest
- 4-Criminal Trespass
- 4-Littering
- 8-Other Than Wildlife And Fisheries
- 1-Fail To Tag Gill Nets

CONFISCATIONS:

55 black drum, 4 red drum, 27 catfish, 9 boxes plus 100 lbs. crabs, 200 sacks of oysters, 9 oyster dredges, 110 feet of gill net, 2 wire fish traps, 4 outboard motors, 5 boats, 1 pirogue, 7 Shotguns, 4 rifles, 157 nutria, 54 nutria pelts, 1680 lbs. of nutria meat, 1 mink, 7 mink pelts, 20 raccoons, 7 raccoon pelts, 1 otter pelt, 2 robins, 133 rabbits.

Page (11)

S.W.E.P.

DELTA TIDE

131 HOURS RUNNING TIME

22 BOATS CHECKED

TOTAL CITATIONS-10

5-No Oyster Harvester License

1-Operate unregistered boat

4-Trawl in Closed Season

CONFISCATIONS:

1-1200 feet of gill net, 8 trawls, 387 lbs. of shrimp valued \$535.50.

RIP TIDE

75 HOURS RUNNING TIME

40 BOATS CHECKED

TOTAL CITATIONS-4

4-No Oyster Harvester License

Note: Half Of the month Rip Tide in repair.

Page (12)

TOTAL CASES S.W.E.P. - 14

TOTAL CASES ENFORCEMENT -1223

TOTAL CASES OTHER DIVISIONS- 24

GRAND TOTAL -1261